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AMONG

THE

GOTHS AND VANDALS.

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GOTHS AND VANDALS.

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"WHERE IS THIS SIGHT?"

"WHAT IS IT YOU WOULD SEE?"

BY

JOHN BLAIKIE,

AUTHOR OF "THE OLD TIMES, AND THE NEW."

LONDON:

TINSLEY BROTHERS, 18, CATHERINE STREET, STRAND.

1870.

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TO THE MEMORY

OF

MANY FRIENDSHIPS, WARMLY CHERISHED,

THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY,

I Dedicate

THIS VOLUME.

PREFACE.

WHEN the Author began to write the matter now offered to the public, he had no idea of elaborating it into a volume. In its original form he presented it, with approval, to one of the leading monthly periodicals, and a suggestion was afterwards made that by an enlargement of the topics and details, he might succeed in producing a readable book. All that he at first contemplated was a hurried sketch, such as a man who had spent a "long vacation" in the country might easily supply—hence the opening chapter, which he was recommended to retain as an easy introduction to the general subject.

The Author's real acquaintance with Sweden has been of a more extended kind than that chapter would indicate. His residence recalls many acts of personal kindness which memory would not willingly put aside, and if opinions have been expressed with frankness, he can truthfully declare that malice has never been the prompter.

SYDENHAM,
April, 1870.

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AMONG THE GOTHS AND VANDALS.

CHAPTER I.

STEAMERS AND POSTING—AN OLD FRIEND AGAIN.

SOME months of uninterrupted professional attendance on Parliamentary Committees had worn me in mind and body, when one morning the post brought an invitation from an old College chum, to visit him in the kingdom of the Goths, where, several years previously, he had established himself as a landed magnate.

The luxury of a Scotch moor was denied to me, and none of my friends had been civil enough to offer a share of theirs; so, overhauling fowling-pieces and fishing-rods, and stuffing my biggest portmanteau, I

joyously proceeded to survey the rocky shores of Scandinavia.

In my school days, the Skager Rack and the Kattegat were familiar as well as terrible names, and now I was to make their personal acquaintance. We sailed under favourable auspices, but the proverbial treachery of the ocean once more revealed itself. For three days and three nights I was, in truth, in *deep* distress, and should most willingly have exchanged my position for Jonah's.

> "The wandering vessel drove before the wind,
> Toss'd and re-toss'd aloft, and then alow."

How I abused the proffered hospitality of my friend. What a fool I called myself for accepting it! I knew well now Shakespeare's meaning, when he said,—

> "Mad as the sea and wind, when both contend!"

and like thousands before, I gave up all as lost. If Gottenburg had been Paradise, I could not have been more thankful for its repose. On shore everything was *couleur de rose*. The custom-house officers were charming, and I made them welcome to the most curious examination of my effects. Porters in scores crowded the quay, who seemed the finest fellows I had ever seen. Some of them shouted in

purer English than I had left behind at Hull; and so in the fulness of my heart I hired the services of *two* to transport my baggage to the nearest hotel.

Gottenburg is a sort of English colony. Numbers of its people are English by birth and extraction, and many more affect our manners and habits. We have been its best friends. An Englishman long ago set up a brewery there, and "Carnegie's stout" rivals the famous production of "Barclay and Perkins." It is a familiar and welcome beverage all the land over.* Englishmen are at the head of great cotton and linen manufactories, and in ship-building we have contributed valuable lessons. The leading firm in the timber trade is essentially English, and the founder of it, arriving there in the beginning of the century, with staff in hand and half a crown in pocket, amassed a colossal fortune. Amongst the most striking of the public buildings is an English church, erected by its members, in which an excellent clergyman makes stirring weekly appeals to crowded congregations.

* According to an old English author, Sweden has long been celebrated for its malt. He regrets "that it bringeth forth none of that noble liquor of the grape, which is, notwithstanding, brought from other countries;" and adds, "It is well furnished with good ale and beer for ordinary drink."

Even the statue of the great Gustavus Adolphus, the founder of the town, is British, the chief portions of its material having been brought all the way from the granite city of Aberdeen.

Surviving the misery of the sea voyage, I had still before me a day's journey, partly on one of those canals which the Swedes owe to the skill and science of Thomas Telford. I passed the favourite watering-place of Marstrand, whose mud baths, to which hundreds from every district flock annually, are supposed to cure all the ills that flesh is heir to. Failing health is not always the reason of this periodical pilgrimage; for fashion lends its powerful influence, and those "Upper Ten" from the nearer provinces who fail to present themselves, either must be indifferent to its sway, or financially disabled—things equally to be despised in a country where appearances and wealth are immensely considered. On my arrival at Uddevallah—a creation of the Dutch, and therefore standing on the site of an old quagmire, whose mephitic vapours would remind the founders of their well-beloved Zuyder Zee—I was to post the concluding thirty miles, and, with commendable forethought, had been supplied on paper with words, spelt as the natives pronounce them, to denote the

sort of trap I was to hire, and the place to which it was to convey me. These I happily was able to spout with desired effect.

The "carriage," despising the refinement of springs, was about half the size of an ordinary sand-cart, which its general appearance whimsically resembled. A stunted-looking animal, of the equine kind, of staid and solemn mien, stood between two ponderous shafts; a roughish piece of board, having no back support, became the improvised "box," upon which Jehu, having first seated himself, invited me, by a series of signals, to join his immediate presence. Anywhere, except in Sweden, the turn-out would have made a sensation by its oddities. There it meant a post-chaise! I ruminated on its probable value, and, inclusive of trappings, the pony, and livery of my very near neighbour, I satisfied myself that for a five-pound note the investment would have been a losing one.

The roads were atrocious, and the shaking very grievous to be borne. One early jolt, more than usually ferocious, caused my well-beloved meerschaum to bound from my mouth, and its loss did not contribute to the happiness of the situation. Slabs of naked rock smooth as glass, huge boulders blocking up gullies, and yawning chasms painful to con-

template, seemed to make progress impossible. How *triste* the contrast to that inspiring trip, then not three months old, to the downs of Epsom, on Jack Elphinstone's spicy drag, he holding the ribbons and regulating the paces of four spanking bays! My chaffing powers, without creatures to practise upon, were useless now; the English education of my charioteer had been shamefully neglected, and the national pastime of growling would have been utterly unappreciated.

At midnight on the 12th of August—what ages appeared to have been compassed!—I reached the Swedish "Härgärd," and Frank Heathcote stood before me. I expected to behold a misanthrope. The jolliest of hosts received me. His handsome features were nearly concealed by a growth of hair unsurpassed by a Scotch terrier's, and he was the possessor of a beard which Aaron might have envied. "My dear fellow," said he, "I am so very glad to see you; supper will be served in five minutes. How fagged you look! Slow coach, I fear. No macadams or rails here, you know, eh?" But I was too wearied to exhibit the smallest gratitude for his heartiness or to give even monosyllabic replies. There was a feeling of dislocation about my jaws

which forbade all attempts at mastication, and a weariness about the body as if I had already exceeded the allotted span of human existence.

I have said that Heathcote's friendship and mine was of long standing, and although our paths in life had been widely apart, it had never known a break. He became a Guardsman, and my headquarters were the Temple. His pleasant presence and ample fortune secured for him a welcome everywhere. He was good enough for "White's" and "Boodle's," a swell at Melton Mowbray, and the exclusiveness of Almack's smiled upon him. No man gave more charming little dinner parties, and the excellence of his cellar received general applause. But he had always been careless about money matters, and some unlucky evenings at Crockford's, and hard hits at Goodwood and Newmarket, had made alarming inroads on his finances, and a balance-sheet, with which for the first time he presented himself, disclosed results so unattractive that he wisely determined to "cut" London and go abroad. The world announced with its usual coolness that "poor Frank Heathcote had been badly hit," and one of its petted children was thenceforth neither seen nor remembered at the gatherings of Vanity Fair. He found Paris too gay,

Boulogne too dull; Spa, Aix-la-Chapelle and Baden recalled hateful memories; till at last he closed these aimless wanderings by setting up his household gods in the quietest of nooks, where, as Frederica Bremer says, primeval mountains, covered with pine forests, surround deep tranquil lakes, and a better acquaintance with the secrets of Nature and the human heart can be obtained. There, among its poor squirearchy, the wreck of his fortune sufficed to secure for him a good position, and indeed his forests and general acreage were of that extent, that had it been possible to transplant them to an English county, he would have taken rank among our much respected millionaires.

Except that he looked a little older, and was decidedly more hirsute, my Oxford comrade was not a bit altered. He had the same joyous flow of spirits, and the same intelligent and erratic talk, which made him first favourite at our College wine parties. He was one of the very few men who might have taken for his motto,

"Benefits in marble, injuries in dust."

Nominally, he had changed his nationality. He had married a Swedish wife, and begotten Swedish sons and daughters, but in all his feelings and opinions he

was an Englishman to the backbone. That wife was a pattern of womankind. At St. James's, people might have called her *gauche*, but in her own home she was very attractive; and those numerous pledges that hung about her told of the blue blood that flowed in their father's veins. Like a sensible man, Heathcote had adopted the rules and hours of Swedish life. We breakfasted at seven, dined at twelve, and at eight sat down to a hot supper, good enough for Cæsar. The farm and garden chiefly supplied our bill of fare. Later on, he and I adjourned to his "den," as he liked to call a curious little chamber, which combined dressing, writing, smoking room, and library. He had never been much of a book-worm, and his literary belongings were easily counted. A Bible and Prayer-book, which had been his mother's. An Army List, files of the *Times* and *Bell's Life*, and the transactions of some Agricultural Societies, nearly exhausted the catalogue. The *Times* gave a contemporary history of the world, and *Bell's Life* made him so well informed on our sporting achievements, that he spoke of the authorities of the Jockey Club as familiarly as of its leaders in his own time. He knew all about births, marriages, and deaths far better than I did, and had followed the course of mili-

tary promotion so closely, that he could point with precision to the place he should have occupied had he remained in the "Blues."

To adapt himself to a position of such peculiar change apparently required no effort. He was isolated, but the isolation was not of the unhappy kind; and Nature had been lavish in the ornaments with which his residence was embellished.

> "It was embosomed in a happy valley
> Crowned by high woodlands, where the Druid oak
> Stood like Caractacus."

CHAPTER II.

AN ENGLISHMAN'S FARM—SWEDISH AGRICULTURAL CLASSES—AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE.

HEATHCOTE'S establishment took my fancy amazingly. Both men and things reminded me of rural life, as I had seen it in our own "far North," and I thoroughly entered into the enthusiasm with which his labours were conducted. The homestead and appointments were good; and he had excited the wonder of the natives by a steam thrashing-machine, which liberated six yoke of oxen, and silenced for ever the monotonous action of the weary flail. He assisted to extend the reputation of the Messrs. Howard; and his implements generally represented the best improvements in modern husbandry. Finding rapid despatch to be essential to diminish the influence of short and precarious seasons, the services

of horses were mostly substituted for those of oxen. His stock of cattle was enhanced both in appearance and in value by strains of Durham blood, and in the whole arrangements one could not help acknowledging the combined power of English capital, enterprise, and perseverance, despite many unkindnesses of climate, and a hundred lesser impediments, to which a man, surrounded by strangers with narrow prejudices, is liable to be subjected in a land of adoption.

The distinctive classes connected with agriculture are the "Patron" (including such of the nobility as own landed property), the "Bonde," the "Torpor," and labourer of diverse quality. Patrons, when not noble, are our country squires. Considering their social position, they are but scantily endowed with worldly goods,* and estates are often heavily and distressingly mortgaged; but this does not prevent them from taking things easily. They eat and drink well, and use wonderfully little exertion in the direction of their affairs.

"Carpe diem quam minimum credula postero."

In those opinions that do not relate to politics,

* This and other statements as to classes refer to the *general* condition of things.

they are eminently conservative, and prefer the systems and implements their fathers approved, to the novelties of the present day. Every Patron of consideration has a farm overseer, conspicuous by the long jack-boots he wears, who superintends all details, and often has a place at his chief's table. It too frequently happens, that as the riches of his employer take wings and fly away, his own mysteriously increase. Leases or tenancies of farms are singularly exceptional, and the balance-sheets of "gentlemen farmers," like those elsewhere, are said to be not very attractive, so rare is it that deputed management succeeds. It is difficult for an Englishman to realize the existence of an agricultural community of which the tenantry is not an influential part. Among ourselves, the purses of wealthy landowners would achieve comparatively little without the knowledge and energy of their tenants. Theirs is the eye which selects the best form, theirs the capacity that directs the wisest crossing, and to them belong that judicious treatment and steady care of stock, which gives us the best beef and mutton in the world. We find few estates entailed on eldest sons; these excepted, the Code Napoleon holds universal sway. This, and the influence of mortgages

combined, as well as the spirit of land speculation (chiefly in connexion with estates having considerable forest), lead to more frequent changes of ownership than in any other European state. Distances are so great that some sort of equipage must be kept. Swedish Chancellors of the Exchequer impose no duties on carriages, and Patrons always travel in "family coaches." The name sounds well, but if the luxury is to be measured by *appearances*, it must be small enough. Those I saw might have belonged to the establishment of Noah; and horses, harness, and liveries were in admirable keeping. There is much comfort about country houses. They are chiefly of wood, and the thickness of the walls helps to keep them cool in summer, while the peculiar stove fitted into each room allows the temperature to be easily regulated during the protracted winter; and then there is that simple and genial hospitality which is never stinted—such indeed is the pressure employed to make one eat, that you fancy yourself in the presence of Dean Swift's Mrs. Bickerstaff. In connexion with eating is a habit, trying to the head of a stranger, of drinking a glass of white brandy—an indigenous concoction—before sitting down to each of the principal meals. It is supposed to assist

the appetite, and I cannot say it seriously interfered with mine. The furnishings are scanty in comparison with our home fashion, and the polished or painted floors, clean and tidy-looking though they be, seem in Englishmen's eyes a poor substitute for rich and sumptuous carpeting. Nevertheless, one is quickly reconciled, and a feeling of cheerfulness restored by the very general custom of filling the panels of the salons with mirrors from top to bottom—

> "—— in which he of Gath,
> Goliath, might have seen his giant bulk
> Towering, crest and all!"

Between the members of families and servants the relations are very much of the primitive sort. The familiarity would shock the grandeur of our modern establishments, yet there is nothing vulgar or offensive about it. It displays itself in an interest in the affairs and belongings of those they serve, so that, during a friendly discussion on home topics, one need feel no surprise if the table-maid should correct some statement of fact, or express opinions at variance with the general view. This free and easy footing reminded me of early, or rather traditional, associations. An old aunt—God bless her!—whose

recollections count from the last century, makes us laugh still, as she retails some of her stories, whose attractions fail not, despite the repetitions of three-score years. Here is one of them, which may be taken as a sample of the stock:—Mrs. Mackenzie kept a good table and was hospitably intent; John, the butler, of an inquiring turn of mind, had passed his best years in the service. There was a lively dinner party one day, and gossip and anecdote were unusually interesting. In the middle of a good story, John's exertions were suspended, and no heed was paid to the injunction to remove the dishes. The historian proceeded, the butler stood still. The commands of the hostess were repeated in vain; when she surveyed her trusty man-servant he was devouring the narrative, ears and mouth wide open. "For God's sake change the dishes," she cried, in desperation, "and I promise to finish the story to you to-morrow." John accepted the compromise, resumed his wonted alacrity, and no doubt had the conditions honourably fulfilled.

Many Patrons are engaged in commercial pursuits, and divide the year between town and country. In town life they do not present the same amiable domestic picture. Restaurants and cabarets have

irresistible fascinations, and although it may be the tongue of scandal only, it is asserted that while husbands are faring sumptuously, wives and children at home have to be content oftentimes with the modest contributions of herrings and potatoes. Social arrangements of another kind receive legal sanction in the marriage of widowers with the sisters of deceased wives. I did not hear that this was attended with the evil consequences which those predict by whom its introduction into our code is denounced; at all events, sisters-in-law have not been extinguished, but are found, flourishing as ever, in usual variety.

We miss about country houses fine parks, well-mown lawns, and evergreens of luxuriant growth, and such small consideration is given to landscape gardening that, where nature has been niggard, efforts are rarely made to supply deficiencies. To every residence there is the inevitable avenue of lime trees, trained after Dutch fashion. The lime is not a native of the country, Dutchmen having introduced specimens, and taught the Swedes how to plant and prune them. It is to be regretted that more desire has not been evidenced to profit by the taste and superior knowledge of the Dutch in the treatment

of forest trees. There is singularly little planting going on, and where forests and large tracts have been cleared and not appropriated, too seldom the case, to cultivation, Nature's stores, and not the nurseryman's, are relied upon for the production of a second crop. In plantations of minor extent, small attention is paid to thinning, and each tree struggles with its neighbour for ascendancy and breathing room. Birch is the species which thrives in all parts of Sweden, and in colder regions as well. No tree is more useful. It supplies the best sort of firewood. Various domestic articles are made of it. It is extensively used in building, and in many districts where winter provender is scarce, the leaves, stored in autumn, are given as favourite articles of food to horses and sheep. The birch grows on the shores of the Frozen Ocean. Greenland and Iceland can boast of no other tree, and it flourishes in Siberia and Kamschatka. In a much more limited extent the oak is likewise indigenous, and many splendid specimens remain, but the Swedish kind has not the highest repute as timber. The supply is also less extensive than formerly. When the nation was constructing its navy, the demand became very great, and a panic arose lest a scarcity should be produced;

whereupon a decree was promulgated that no oaks should thenceforward be cut down, under a considerable penalty, without the royal assent first asked and obtained. The statute has never been repealed, but is now honoured more in the breach than in the observance.* One of the finest private residences is the Castle of Sko-Kloster, in the neighbourhood of the university town of Upsala. It stands on the site of what was once an abbey, founded in the 13th century "for an abbess and twelve chaste virgins," which the *profane* reforms of Gustavus Wasa subsequently disestablished and disendowed. An imposing edifice, with octagon towers capped by minarets, has risen in its place, and long sheltered the present noble owners, who are the representatives of the famous Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe. Among other interesting memorials in the castle, are portraits of the Scotch companions-in-arms of Field-Marshal Wrangel—a former proprietor, one of the most celebrated generals of the Thirty Years' War—including the Ruthvens, the Douglases, and the Drummonds.

The climate of Sweden is an enemy to horticulture,

* The tree of trees, however, is the pine (the Scots fir, as we popularly call it), which combines shelter with profit, and ornament with the most extensive utility.

and the rich only can cultivate the taste successfully, although among all there is a natural love of flowers. Of late years, owing to improved systems of communication, locomotion has increased, and other countries have been more generally visited. Profiting by the forward state of horticulture there, wealthy country gentlemen have been erecting conservatories as well as hot-houses on the most approved principles, so that Epiphytes and rare exotics may be seen flourishing, where outside, the thermometer stands some degrees below zero. It has long been a favourite pastime of the well-to-do Northman to force in native fashion, early vegetables; and if he has not, unmindful of expense, several specimens for his Easter dinner, as choice companions of his salmon and lamb, friends wont find him pleasant company!

The "Bonde" has the place of our ancient yeoman —hard headed and hard working—the director of his small establishment, and the real embodiment of Swedish agricultural prosperity. He makes an excellent salesman, and struggles to have the best of every bargain. When he goes to market he leaves behind, like our own farmers, some part of his truthfulness. There the ages of his horses never exceed eight; their tempers are always of the sweetest, be they as savage

as Bucephalus. His cows have not been known to miss calf, and the pedigrees of his bulls are lost among the popular herds of Schleswig Holstein. Until two years ago, when a Reform bill reduced the number, one of the houses of Parliament, called the House of the Peasants, was exclusively composed of this class. The Bondes exist in great numbers, and, unlike the Patrons, represent riches beyond what their deportment and style of living would denote. There is another difference in this, that their small possessions are preserved for generations in unbroken descent, younger sons being drafted into the Church, Commerce, and Army of the country. As applied to them, the truth of the French proverb is well exemplified—

"Aides-toi, le ciel t'aidera."

In the district of Dalarne the "hereditary principle" is especially powerful among the same class. The province is a very poor one, where seasons are extremely precarious, and harvests in consequence often complete failures, but no circumstances diminish attachments to the soil. There the land is so subdivided by the progress of succession, that a man has to count his estate, not by acres, but by feet, and a peasant proprietor must be in sore distress ere he

consents to sell the heritage of his forefathers, even to a member of his own family. More extended intercourse with their countrymen has partially broken up clannish prejudices, but formerly no stranger was permitted to form matrimonial alliances among them, and aspiring youths, whose intentions were either declared or suspected, were compelled, by force of cudgels, to beat hasty retreats. The dress of these curious people is thus accurately described by Mr. Marryat:*—It "consists of sheepskin jackets with goat's hair; the women wear red bodices and white sleeves, petticoats of dingy blue, yellow spencers, red caps with yellow hoods; the men have a long dark coat, yellow leather vest and breeches, the latter cut down very low in front, long lambswool stockings with the fluff outside, buckles to their shoes, of which the heel is placed in the centre; blue ribbons with red bobs dangle jauntily from their knees." The men are tall and powerfully built, and the women so pretty and attractive that one can readily understand the anxiety of the tribe to keep their fair sisters at home. Those of us who have seen the picture of the interior of a cottage in Dalecarlia, by that charming Swedish artist Amalia Landegren, have a truthful representation of what

* "One Year in Sweden."

humble life is there. The remark that she has gained the especial object of art by "the expression of the poetry of reality" is strictly correct.

I spent a vastly entertaining afternoon at the house of a Bonde who was perhaps the best specimen of the class I could have seen. His patrimonial acres, increased by a valuable inheritance at a later period, would have given him rank among "Patrons," but he steadily refused such social promotion. He had been a "parliament man" and vice-president of the Chamber of Peasants. Recollections of these days were his fondest themes, and among the class in which he was born he placed his pleasantest associations. His poorer neighbours regarded him as an oracle by whom all their grievances and disputes were determined. He permitted no appeal from his decisions, and if their language was never judicial, and always rather roughly interpolated, it was none the less adapted, on that account, for the cases which called it forth. My visit was on his name-day, which, and not the birthday, is made the occasion of social reunions, and troops of friends arrived to offer congratulations. The feast of good things was profuse, without the least attempt at display. No menial hands waited upon the guests, but our comfortable-

looking hostess and her pretty daughters moved about among us, anticipating and gratifying every want. When we had finished eating, each guest, approaching our entertainers, shook them warmly by the hand, (according to custom in all ranks), and thanked them "for meat." I learned that it would be an intolerable specimen of bad manners if, on the next meeting, no matter how long the interval, they omitted to return thanks for the hospitality of "the last occasion."* We of course drank the health of the old member of parliament, who made a humorous acknowledgment, and, as it so happened that his Christian name and mine were the same—a bond of union being thus created—he called attention to this circumstance in most hospitable fashion. Then, pointing towards me, and raising his voice, he exclaimed in the only English words he owned—"G—d d—n!" His son, a very fine fellow, who had studied farming in the Lothians, and spoke our language perfectly, hurried to my side, to apologize, and proceeded to explain to the head of the feast the mess into which his literary pretensions had brought him. The latter was profuse in lamentations,

* In Swedish, "tak for sist."

and immensely relieved when he found that no offence was taken. He had heard that it was a favourite national expression, and could not imagine that so terrible a meaning belonged to it. The episode, when interpreted, undoubtedly increased the prevailing hilarity, and Heathcote's was affected in an especial degree. Next morning all was repeated for his wife's benefit, and formed a standing joke during the remainder of my *séjour*.*

One word in the interests of the wives of Bondes. They are patterns of thrift and sobriety. Their horizon does not extend beyond the kitchen and cowhouse, but the comforts of men and beasts are carefully ministered to by them. They care little for holiday making; in this respect, their greatest recreation and most coveted luxury being a quiet gossip on Sunday afternoon over a friendly cup of coffee with some neighbouring matron of the same degree. Then all parish events, recent and prospective, receive

* It was here that I was enrolled as a hippophagist. A few weeks previously a young horse, in good condition, had received a fatal accident, and an end having been put to his sufferings, the flesh was appropriated for the benefit of the household. It was presented in thin slices, and I thought an excellent specimen of "cold meat." On discovering what it really was, my enthusiasm waned. So much for prejudice. Horseflesh is highly esteemed, and it is solely on account of the cost that it is not in general use.

impartial discussion. Outside it, the triumphs and reverses of the world are in their estimation matters of indifference. With them everything is of the parish, parochial.

We have no class to correspond with "Torpors." If their condition is superior to that of serfs, it is chiefly from the voluntary nature of the service. They are squatted all over the country in tumble-down looking cottages, struggling, not always successfully, for the necessaries of life, the living occupants, of various qualities, so huddled together as to remind one of that melancholy collection exhibited in the streets of London, called "The Happy Family." Each estate has its own supply, and the larger Bondes also bring the services of Torpors into requisition. The institution of torporism is popular amongst the employers of labour, inasmuch as it does not necessitate *cash* payments. According to the extent and value of the land in occupation, the Torpor undertakes to perform a certain weekly amount of work, thus making, in point of fact, all operations on his own account subservient to the convenience of his chief. The estate upon which such service is required, is often distant from the poor man's dwelling, and a daily walk of six or eight

miles creates a deal of tear and wear. The position, it has been remarked, is nominally a voluntary one, but then he must have a home of some kind, however mean, and to obtain it, cannot escape from customary conditions. The advantages of the system are undoubtedly on the side of employers. The Torpor has not always an assured term of occupancy. The caprice of landowners, or failing health, may break his home up on brief notice. Even if he had the means, there is not therefore the inducement, to improve the small holding he possesses, and as a rule, most things about it bear the mark of poverty. His land is no exception,—

> "'Tis an unweeded garden,
> That grows to seed—things rank and gross in nature."

There remain the classes of servants hired by a term, and the occasional daily labourer, whose remuneration is fixed very much on the plan we have long adopted. The wages of agricultural labour are low. In the case of farm servants, their rations closely resemble those in Scotland, except that rye, in place of oatmeal, is the staple article; but the money payments for the year do not exceed the value of five pounds, and money and rations included, the remuneration is under twenty-four pounds. Butcher meat is a luxury

rarely attained, except at Christmas-time; and when indulged in, pork, beyond all comparison, is the popular sort. Their ordinary daily bread consists of rye baked into cakes, and potatoes, occasionally savoured by a Norwegian herring or Swedish stromming. In some districts, and especially in seasons of scarcity produced by late or deficient harvests, the bill of fare is less inviting. An old English writer,* referring to what was true then, as it is now, says, "The extreme or most northerly parts lying betwixt the Arctick circle, and the pole Arctick, enjoy neither a temperate ayre, nor yet a fruitful soile, and since by reason of the faint heat of the sun, corne will not always there ripen well, therefore the wise Creator of all things hath furnished those countries with great variety of wild beastes, and divers rivers, lakes and gulfes, furnished with variety of wholesome fishes for the sustaining of the inhabitants thereof." This provision is not always enough, and for centuries the poor have been in the habit, when the supply of grain failed, of making bread from the bark of fir and pine trees. The same writer remarks on this with a complacency

* "A Short Survey of Sweden." London, 1639.

surely meant to be cynical, for he adds, "that sort of sustenance is esteemed very wholesome, and agreeing well with their stomachs, and free from any maligne quality"!

Bothy life, always fruitful of evil, prevails in inglorious freedom, and single men are haunted by that constant desire for change which effectually checks the growth of solid and enduring relations between master and servant. Feeing-markets, as in Scotland, do not count among minor institutions, but at each term the same sort of holiday-making is observed, where drunkenness and debauchery hold a sway that is supreme. Every engagement, whether original or renewed, to be binding, has to be ratified by the payment of a few dollars to the servant, and these defray the charges of this periodical saturnalia. Among the class of agricultural servants the type of intelligence is unquestionably low, and speaking generally, there is little in their occupation to give impulse to it. The system of culture pursued undeviatingly for generations—the implements in use, of the form the Egyptians might have used—separate effectually all idea of novelty from the occupation, and reduce it to the dullest routine. This is to be regretted on all accounts. We have seen at home

that in the adoption of scientific culture, and the introduction of improved machines and implements, favourable influences have been wrought on servants and labourers. In the one case, they have been eager to learn what are the stimulating properties of artificial manures, and in the other, their attention has been attracted to the ingenuity exhibited, thus exciting a desire to study and master methods which have made them practically successful.

Women are much employed in out of door work, as well as in attending to live stock, horses excepted. In "An Account of Sweden" I have seen, published in 1717, a lamentable narrative is given of the treatment of the class, but things have changed for the better since then, although the remuneration they receive is very meagre—often not exceeding sixpence a day. "The women," says our author, "are very fruitful, and seldom fail of a numerous issue. They are nowhere made greater drudges than here, the meaner sort being, besides the ordinary offices of their sex, put to plough and thrash, or row in boats, and bear burdens at the building of houses and on other occasions." Heathcote had several in his employment, and in the intercourse between them and the lower creation a pleasant and friendly familiarity

existed, which was often amusing to behold. He narrated that how, having been to the cowhouse one winter's day, he noticed a woman feeding the fowls (which for the sake of warmth are located there), with small pieces of paper. "They are very fond of them, Patron," quoth she, "but alas! they can have no more, for what I give them now is the last of my Norse Bible!" There is still a large preponderance of females in the population—1059 to 1000—which is much greater than in most countries, and is said to be traced to the decimating influence of the wars of the 17th and 18th centuries.

The occasional labourer, in the longest day seldom earns above a couple of shillings, and during winter, in most rural districts, his wages do not exceed a shilling of our money. Few of the class can resist the temptation of ardent spirits, and a Swede sober and a Swede drunk, would seem to belong to separate races. In his former condition he is all politeness and amiability. He makes profound obeisances, and if there are favours looming, addresses his chief as "dear, sweet *little* Patron," though the latter should be six foot high, and a fit subject for "banting;" but when the "wine is in," and his will thwarted, all self-command is put aside, and his language becomes

violent and offensive—you are consigned to the most unpopular of regions, and to the curses of a "thousand devils." Gnashing of teeth, stamping of feet, and a hundred wild gesticulations make a fitting set-off to words which proclaim what an unruly member the tongue of man is. As a rule, however, there is much native politeness among the very lowest classes, which strangers do not connect with the character of the Northman. The respectful recognition by the men, the graceful curtsey of the women, are rarely omitted, and the bestowal on children of the smallest coin of the realm—about half a farthing—is sufficient to make them raise your hand to their lips, and imprint on it a kiss of thanks.

Teetotal societies have been diligent in Sweden as elsewhere to reclaim, often with depressing results. Sheep stray from the fold, and occasionally owe their safety to the tender mercies of some passing Samaritan. A few years ago the Medical Faculty of Stockholm suggested a novel prescription for habitual drunkards, and commenced its practice in the cases of some criminal patients, whose craving for spirits had been overpowering. Every article of food was impregnated with the favourite brandy. The water given to drink was mixed with it, so that in hunger

or thirst the flavour was ever present. In a few days the old craving disappeared, followed by a sense of intolerable loathing. The Doctors were congratulating themselves on their success, but did so prematurely. Patients had renounced brandy, but their condition became deplorable, and insanity either followed or was imminent. The same treatment, with similar results, has been tried in France; if, however, it is to receive applause, that the Swedes, as the earliest experimenters, are entitled to claim.

Provincial distinctions are remarkable among the common people. In dress, manner, speech, and occasionally in physiognomy, these are observable. The Dalcarl is as unintelligible in Stockholm as a Highlander, speaking Gaelic, would be in London. You meet with the "burr" of Northumberland, and the inhabitants of another province, in their treatment of aspirates, might have drawn their first breath within sound of Bow bells.

The rank and file of the old Swedish armies made first-rate campaigners. They had a versatility which enabled them to turn their hands to every sort of work. This capacity is equally observable now. On numerous homesteads the same man is mason, carpenter, blacksmith, millwright, cart and plough

wright. His attainments keep tailor's bills within the smallest limits, and he is his own shoemaker. It frequently happens that the scanty furniture of the labourer's cottage has been made by himself, and hence the trifling means required for household plenishing. There was shown at Amsterdam the other day, at the Dutch International Exhibition, a collection of cottage furniture made by a Swedish boor during his leisure hours in winter evenings which was described as "truly marvellous in its cheapness." From the excellence of the work and the cheapness of labour, the Swedes might give commercial importance to this department.

Until recently the rights of the serving-man were seriously invaded in a way strangely inconsistent with the boasted freedom of the nation. The law permitted a master for a trivial offence to kick ignominiously, or brutally horsewhip or cudgel, the person of his servant. It took such partial account of things as practically to lend its sanction to the theory that the employer *must* be right, nor was retaliation permitted. And so really the liberty of the subject to a numerous class, was of the sort enjoyed in former days by the coloured population of

the Southern States of America and the West Indies. While the service lasted servants were regarded as the property of masters. May a man not do what he likes with his own? Any remonstrance would have been answered in the sense of a familiar doggrel—

> "Things have come to a pretty pass,
> If a man mayn't wallop his own jackass."

But this piece of Vandalism has passed away, and the impartiality of the law is vindicated; so that now when any patron or other employer of labour chooses to have recourse to such acts of personal violence, all protection is withdrawn, and he subjects himself to fine or imprisonment.

Employers commit a great mistake in straining the hours of labour, which during summer are from five in the morning till eight in the evening, with short intervals of rest. It is a fallacy to imagine that by this unnatural extension a greater amount of work is performed than by the reasonable limitation we adopt. Physical endurance is not equal to sustained exertion of such length, and the consequence is often slovenly performance. During seed time and harvest, Sunday is not always a day of rest, and farm servants have to be tempted by

lucre and brandy to hasten ordinary operations.* The shortness of the seasons, and their capriciousness, find excuses for the reproaches of conscience, should these ever threaten to be troublesome. It is entirely a flight of imagination to talk of spring as a *season*, in our sense of it, for, as an English author says, it is nothing more than the term allotted to the death and obsequies of the dear old Winter. The poet's lines are attractive, but lack reality—

> "O! 'tis the touch of fairy hand
> That wakes the spring of northern land."

With respect to "seasons" generally, the truth lies more nearly in the witty speech of a French ambassador, that "there were only nine months of winter —all the rest were summer!"

My visit was during an interesting period, the whole establishment being in full activity, harvest and seed time competing in the race. As the sowing—of rye especially—and wheat, was pushed on, the seed of the previous spring and autumn was

* It is surprising that no mules are used in Sweden. Their keep is much less costly than that of horses, and they would be peculiarly fitted for work in forests and rough ground, while their superior speed gives them great advantages over oxen.

being cut down and garnered. Rye, oats (the black oat), barley, and wheat, of cereals, and in respect of breadth, in the order given, peas and beans, and less generally flax, are all extensively cultivated. Black oats reach our shores in considerable quantities, and help to feed our faithful allies, the cab horses of London. Other grain exports are small in proportion.

The potato disease, of an equally fatal type, first appeared about the same time as in England, and this ever-popular esculent has since proved an anxious as well as uncertain crop. Everybody claims an interest in it, and in the time of scarcity its absence was lamented by the man whom starvation stared in the face hardly less than by the *bon vivant* who taxed his artistic intellect in vain for a fitting substitute. Besides being in universal use as an article of daily food, the potato is in extensive demand for the purposes of brandy distillation.

Turnip husbandry is little practised. The lateness of the cereal seed time throws turnip sowing too far into the season, and the plant suffers from the ravages of the same small black-fly, in enormous swarms, we find so formidable an assailant. Rape gets on well, and one regrets that so little com-

paratively is cultivated. Mangold too grows luxuriantly; but were there no other reason, the difficulty of storing root crops of the larger description would make their culture on a grand scale impracticable. In most gardens the "Swedish turnip" is to be seen, although its use is limited to mankind, and bovine palates have no opportunity of appreciating its acknowledged worth.

As a substitute for this description of food, work oxen and milch cows are freely supplied with hay and oat straw; the latter being sprinkled over with oat or rye-meal, coarsely ground, to which are occasionally added moderate allowances of oil and rape cake.

I was delighted with the country, and with the industrious deportment of the people; but I saw it under a genial sun, when it was clothed and verdant. While thus praising my experience one day, I could not help contrasting to Heathcote, and condoling with him upon, the state of things during these many months, when snow, some feet deep, covers the earth, and the thermometer marks, not occasionally, but often, several degrees below zero. He assured me that my sympathy was totally unnecessary. "Why," said he, "winter is *par excellence* the season

of active occupation and greatest enjoyment. It is then we thrash our grain, and carry our cattle and pigs to market; that my wife is made happy by the sale of her cheese and butter—paraphernalia from which my rights are conventionally dissociated—that our supplies of firewood for the following year are provided, and that our ice-houses are filled with specimens as thick and clear as those which attract attention in London shop windows, and are said to come all the way from Lake Wenham.* It is in winter that I, snow-shoe provided, follow the elk, and that old Bruin is surprised in his lair, that my table is best furnished from that fine lake with fish of ample variety, caught, it is true, in pot-hunting fashion, but in this instance I look to the end, not the means. It is then we have our sledging excursions that combine business with pleasure;†

* Much that is called Lake Wenham ice comes from Scandinavian territory. A few years ago a company purchased a lake not far from the Gulf of Christiania, in connexion with an ice trade. In blocks each weighing from three to five hundredweight, of two to three feet in thickness, they are shipped for export, and in properly constructed cellars may be preserved for so long a period that a large proportion of the ice now (1869) sold in London actually arrived in 1866. By far the largest trade is with England, for of the total exported in 1865 of 45,593 tons, we received 44,055 tons.

† The American poet Poe has a delightful little poem on bells,

that I teach my boys your Scotch game of curling; make them experts in skating, and that our neighbours and ourselves principally exchange those social civilities which I have not become misanthropist enough to despise."

"But the cold," I said, "must be dreadful; and I have heard that toes and fingers get cruelly frostbit, and noses have been known to fall off." He put his thumb to the point of his, and gravely inquired whether the whole did not still remain!

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the opening stanzas referring to sledges. It is, as James Hannay says of his poems generally, "carved like a cameo:"—

"Hear the sledges with the bells,
Silver bells!
What a world of merriment their melody foretells,
How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night!
While the stars that oversprinkle
All the heavens, seem to twinkle
With a crystalline delight;
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme,
To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells
From the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells—
From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells."

CHAPTER III.

PARISHES—EDUCATION—PARISH NOTABLES—THE POOR AND AFFLICTED.

DIVISION by parishes dates from the period when Gustavus Wasa established the Reformed Lutheran church, and overthrew the authority of the See of Rome. To keep Popery in perpetual banishment, severe penal enactments were passed, and it was not until the year 1860 that the portion of those laws which prohibited secession from Lutheranism was formally repealed.

The present number of parishes is 2500, and nearly 4000 clergymen belong to them. The superior clergy are comfortably provided for, but the co-ministers, as the junior priests or curates are called, receive miserable stipends, with glebes not better either in extent or appointments, than the holdings of

tenants among us whose rent is twenty pounds a year. In a country where riches are so much considered, this poverty of income unduly detracts from that respect and authority which the ministers of religion, to make their labours effective, ought always to possess. An archbishop, with a title borrowed from the famous cathedral town of Upsala, and twelve bishops, constitute the hierarchy. A question naturally occurs, Are the clergy thus composed an effectively working body? It may be answered affirmatively, although perhaps one would not say that they were *hard* working. They have of course an acquaintance with their parishioners, but generally the intercourse is more official than personal, so to speak. Once a year a formal visitation of families takes place—a "catechising," as the Scotch call it, differing from the latter in this respect, that whereas Presbytery on these occasions objects to mix up spiritual affairs with affairs temporal, Lutheran pastors have to make an impartial distribution. Unless the establishment be considerable, half a dozen families or more are summoned to the homestead of some neighbouring landowner, and proceedings commence by a census-taking of *all* residents, collected by the schoolmaster, who is also the vicar's secretary *pro*

hac vice. Cases of scandal are inquired into, and the church communicates its censures. Loving couples averse, too often on *family* grounds, from delay, are united in the holiest of bonds. Few christenings take place, for children are scarcely brought into the world before they are carried off to church by attentive godfathers and godmothers, and poor mothers make haste to follow, on account of a common superstition that "Trolle,"—a striking resemblance of Robin Goodfellow—is especially dangerous to womenkind who quit their houses at such seasons before setting out to offer thanks in public. Having disposed of business in the departments named, the priest proceeds to test the Biblical knowledge of his flock in detail. A small urchin of ten may be heard correcting the answers of his grandfather, and the fallacy of a wife's belief receives reproof from the lips of her more orthodox husband. Each person is invited to read a few verses, and if statistics were to speak truly, they would record the numerous failures that occur. An address of encouragement brings the meeting to an end, and the parson adjourns to the Patron's table to discuss the good things of this life, and, in another sense, the weather and the crops. It were unjust not to

record that, in seasons of calamity, either from scarcity or pestilence, many of the clergy have set the brightest examples by hastening to relieve distress, putting no value on their lives where they could minister to the necessities of others. This was most conspicuous during the fearful prevalence of cholera some years ago. To mark royal and national appreciation, the King conferred the order of "Wasa" on several clergymen, among others my valued friend Herr Löhmann, the contract-priest of Sponga, a poet of repute, a ripe and varied scholar and most amiable man. The Established Church is all-powerful. Roman Catholics do not number more than three or four thousand, and Jews, principally of German extraction, are even less numerous. It is only recently that those unreasonable penalties attached to religious dissent have been removed, although toleration is still limited, for Lutherans alone can hold office in the state. The *quasi* form of dissent which has acquired most important dimensions, is that represented by "Readers." They profess to have revived the primitive form of Lutheranism, and restrict themselves to the reading and interpretation of the Scriptures.* The established clergy do not favour this

* Chambers' Encyclopædia.

kind of evangelizing. In spiritual affairs, by the favour of the state, they have long been the only authorized teachers, and movements which do not emanate from the church are regarded with jealousy, or as encroachments upon professional privileges.* In some parishes "revivalism," attended by the excitement with which we are familiar, has made its appearance. The efforts of men influenced by honest and earnest convictions ought not to be lightly regarded, but meetings of this kind do not necessarily yield the real comforts of religion. There are many well meaning people, poorly educated and naturally superstitious, who, ceasing to conform to a sober and unostentatious profession, are carried into

* The Canons of the Church sound, now-a-days, absurdly tyrannical. These are specimens: "If any Swedish subject change his religion he shall be banished the kingdom, and lose all right of inheritance, both for himself and his descendants." "If any bring into the country teachers of another religion, he shall be fined and banished." "Strangers of a different religion shall have no public exercise of it, and the children shall be baptized by Lutheran ministers and educated in that religion, otherwise they shall not have the privilege of Swedish subjects." Then there is a canon with respect to religious observances, which, if enforced now, would be most unpopular with a large proportion of the *male* community. "The civil magistrates, especially on days of great solemnity, make very strict search, and punish such as are absent from Church without a just excuse, with imprisonment and other severities."

violent extremes and become the victims of a ranting fanaticism. It has never been satisfactorily shown that those demonstrative professions and sudden impulses lead to the permanent regeneration of communities.

Recent reforms will probably increase the local influence of the priesthood. The "House of Clergy," as one of the four representative chambers, has been abolished, and the clergy have ceased to be "political parsons." In earlier times, the counsels of its members, from their superior education, naturally carried with them great consideration, but as civilization advanced, and other classes in point of cultivation stood on more equal terms, claims to superior wisdom ceased to be recognised. Their views, too, were often widely opposed to public opinion, and such divergence produced irritation and estrangement. Parish duties were made subservient to political discussions, which diminished their local authority. Where political power has been of this vicarious sort, an adverse element has been too commonly imported into the cause of progress. The history of Great Britain, without seeking evidence elsewhere, amply proves the assertion. In the last forty years our Bishops and clergy, till they could not help themselves, resisted Roman Catholic emancipation, opposed Parliamentary and

Municipal reform, denounced the repeal of the Corn laws and the general movements of free trade, and contended for a system of tests and teaching in our universities, totally at variance with the principles of religious equality. As a recognised political body the Swedish clergy are dead. By exclusive devotion to their professional duties, the cause of religion will be more surely promoted by them.

An exaggerated idea prevails of the universality of education. Each parish has its school, but the scattered character of the population and the rigorous climate, are fatal to general or regular attendance, and indeed the schoolmaster often finds it necessary to suspend his labours for months, through the failure of pupils. In some districts, efforts have been made to correct this state of things, and ambulatory schools seek to supply the remedy. The teacher pursues the pupils, and at some farmhouse gathers about him, for a few weeks, a small group, which he forsakes for another to be similarly collected and instructed at a new locality. The stipend of the parish schoolmaster is so small, that he finds it necessary to supplement it from other sources.* If he is

* Until 1863, the minimum salary was 16 tonnas of corn, worth probably in all 12*l.* 10*s.* of our money, school accommodation,

musically inclined, the church makes him its organist. He collects the poor's rates, and is the chief agent in their distribution, and it happens that not unfrequently his voice and facetiousness are engaged in discharging the popular duties of auctioneer. I had heard that everybody was within the reach and had profited by the advantages of education, but this is an apocryphal belief. Among the labouring classes numbers read with difficulty,—with such difficulty, that any idea of pleasure is dissociated from the effort; others are totally without the ability, and for caligraphy, in some districts adults as a rule do not know how to write their own names. Statistical returns will refute this statement, for they place Sweden nearly side by side with Prussia; but statistics cannot enlighten on the relative standards of education, which is certainly without the uniformity of excellence that belongs to it in the latter country. This assumed educational superiority is no new idea, and possibly its correctness may have rested on better grounds formerly than at the present time. An Englishman wrote, two centuries ago,

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and "if possible" a suitable plot of land. Now the *minimum* allowance is raised, and may be computed at 22*l.* 5*s.*, besides a free house, fuel, and winter fodder for cows and pigs.

that the Swedes "are so affectionatè to learning, that although publick scholars for good literature be but rare among them, yet are private persons, who have attained to any learning so forward to instruct their neighbours, that it is a hard matter to find one going at the plough, but hee can read." Difficulties in the way of systematic attendance no doubt produce these instances of ignorance I have quoted, and for which any imperial remedy is nearly impracticable. If the rising generation is to be benefited, it will have to depend more upon the exertions of individual landowners than extended provisions by the State. This ignorance might have been partially corrected if clerical duties had always been more strictly attended to. The law requires that the population of both sexes shall be confirmed on reaching a reasonable age, after previous examination by the parish priest, a knowledge of reading and writing being among the prescribed subjects. Without such knowledge, therefore, confirmation ought not to be granted, and strict enforcement of *formulæ* would undoubtedly favour educational progress, as neglect to be confirmed is lowering to a man in social consideration. His evidence, for example, is inadmissible in a court of justice, and a clergyman who

marries him makes himself amenable to penal consequences.*

But, in the face of much ignorance, the efforts to remove it cannot be too highly extolled, and the early period at which they were commenced makes them the more noteworthy. The work of educating the people was begun as far back as the first half of the sixteenth century. What John Knox was enabled under easier circumstances to introduce into Scotland, Gustavus Wasa had previously exerted himself to effect for Sweden. He established numerous schools, and evidently contemplated a comprehensive system. Nature is powerless to extricate chaos, and Gustavus perceived that without some influential combination it would be impossible to instruct a nation; but means were not abundant in his day, and he could only lay the foundation-stone, upon which others were to build the edifice. There is no country in Europe, which, by reason of its inhabitants being so widely scattered, it is more difficult to reach in detail, and this, and not the abstract

* A Statute of Charles XI. provided that nobody should be allowed to enter into marriage without having been admitted to the Lord's Supper, and that none should be confirmed until they could read.

character of the system, is the cause of partial failure.

A general educational movement, headed by an enlightened ruler, was among the firstfruits of the Reformation. The king had no honeyed words to bestow on the monks, who were formerly supposed to be the only capable instructors, and he described them as "vermin, harmful to the people and good for nothing;" further making offer to supply teaching for the "edification of the children of the people" (*Folket's barn*). In the schools he appointed gospel readings to take place every day.

About the middle of the seventeenth century, some general desire for increased facilities was expressed. Separate parishes, previously unaccommodated, supplied themselves. A few years later, an announcement was made in the Riksdag, that the parish of *Fellingbro* had instituted an "Informatorii," and about the same date several parishes in Norrland petitioned the legislature to establish schools, and the peasantry belonging to one entire province made application that a "*Blockare*," clerk or teacher, might be appointed at every parish church.

Charles XI. was a powerful patron of education, and the interest he took in it was extremely

beneficial. Further on in the century, the clergy headed an earnest movement for the appointment of teachers in every parish, and it was about this time that ambulatory schools received greater consideration.

But arrangements were still and long afterwards very incomplete, and a thoroughly systematic revision cannot be said to have taken place until the years, 1840, 41, and 42. In the Diet of these years, resolutions were passed that in every country parish there should be at least one stationary or ambulatory school, the first to be preferred, and very considerable sums were voted for the purposes of national education, which subsequent meetings have largely augmented. The status and accomplishments of teachers were raised, and those only could fill the office who after examination were found to be duly qualified. Training-schools were founded, and an efficient supervision by the Crown of all national schools was established. In order to keep before the executive ample information on the progress of education, the clergy are further directed to "keep a watchful eye on the schools of their parishes, especially as to the religious education of the pupils, and to make annual reports thereon." Each parish school is also

under a board of local supervision, consisting of the clergyman, who is chairman *ex officio*, and of lay residents popularly elected.

In addition to parliamentary grants in the cause of national education, a royal decree fixes a head-tax, to which each male contributes about fourpence, and each female twopence. These two sources combined produce more than half a million rix-dollars,* and are usefully applied in the general spread of education—especially where corresponding local exertions have been made for aiding such poor parishes as are little able from their scanty resources to defray expenses, by supplementing the teachers' salaries—for the salaries of inspectors, and the purchase of improved books, maps, and globes. As a leading result of the educational movement at various times, and a proof also of its great importance, may be adduced the fact that there are at the present day some thousands of professional teachers, great numbers of whom, exclusive of the direct occasional aid to parish schoolmasters, are salaried by Government.

The condition of things in towns, which are admirably supplied, is elsewhere referred to. Fees being

* Circa 30,000*l.*

small, poverty can find no valid excuse for neglecting to educate its juvenile representatives. In larger communities, "seminaries" supported by Government afford instruction to both sexes, in branches which may be diminished or expanded according to the condition or views of pupils. There is a solidity about the education of the middle classes, which makes it essentially practical. The range is not extensive, but its soundness impresses one. Swedes of this class are good arithmeticians, and write fluently and grammatically. They are exceedingly well read in the history of their country, and have a familiar biographical acquaintance with the great men who adorn its annals. Improved facilities of communication will help by-and-by to extend inquiries, and give them greater interest in the traditions and literature of other lands; but their present stock of knowledge suffices for the creditable discharge of daily duties and the right appreciation of measures for the well-being of the commonwealth. They are free from what Sydney Smith calls the "foppery of universality—of knowing all sciences and excelling in all arts—chemistry, mathematics, algebra, dancing, history, reasoning, riding, fencing, low Dutch, high Dutch, and natural philo-

sophy!" "It is better," added that wise and witty man, "to have the courage to be ignorant of a good number of things, and thus to avoid the calamity of being ignorant of everything."

There are other parish notables besides parsons and schoolmasters. The doctor is one of them, and in hard work and mean remuneration shares the lot of many well educated men in the profession in rural districts elsewhere, but his rides are longer, exposure to the weather is infinitely more trying, and his annual earnings are even less considerable, making one lament the inadequate requital science too frequently receives. The chemist is another, and although this kindred calling is socially inferior, its recompense is greater. His office is a monopoly, since Government limits the numbers, and also selects the locality of their residence. Competition therefore is unknown. The provision which establishes a pharmacy depôt in every parish is a wise one, as in the occasional absence of medical advice its chief is competent to give valuable assistance. Midwives, in their more limited sphere, are as important personages as either. In the practice of the obstetric art, the ubiquity of the doctor becomes less necessary, seeing that women, professionally in-

structed, are within reach in all districts, and it is indeed quite an exceptional case when any but a female practitioner assists at the birth of a child.* The services of women are in such requisition, that the principle of "woman's rights" may be said to be almost conceded. They conduct nearly exclusively the business of savings-banks, and are extensively employed in the Post-office and telegraphic departments. In numerous private establishments they make efficient clerks and bookkeepers, and recently a Medical College has been opened at Gottenburg, where ladies, not under seventeen years of age, are admitted to a complete course of three years, with clinical and anatomical lectures. In view of this efficiency, and these pretensions, it is a marvel that the King and his Ministers, when lately introducing electoral and other political changes, did not give the nation a "Woman's House of Representatives." Although the chorus of two hundred voices had been heard, that need not have made it a house of discord; and its deliberations, presided over by Jenny Lind or Christine Nilsson, would have imparted to them a livelier interest than usually follows from Swedish Councils!

* Published letter of Madame Ankarsvard of Stockholm.

Alas! the united skill of doctor, chemist, and midwife, is insufficient to stay the ravaging hand of death, and the gravedigger in Scandinavia, whose office has been made classical by the magic touch of our great dramatist, supplies another parish worthy. In winter his ordinary duties are suspended, and all corpses are deposited in a dead-house attached to every churchyard, until graves can be dug on the return of a milder season.

The official, however, who chiefly fills the parochial eye, is the policeman—a hydra-headed specimen, when his multifarious duties are considered. He grasps at everything; he is an ordinary Dogberry and a scientific detective; government taxes are in his collection; the functions of coroner—untrammelled by jury—are dispensed by him; he is sheriff-officer and bailiff, varying his duties at ambulatory courts of justice by a paid advocacy of the suits of litigants. If his eloquence in their behalf proves unavailing, and they are cruelly left to fate, he easily forgets the claims of fleeting associations—promptly metamorphoses himself into an auctioneer, and sells off, without compunction, the worldly goods of former allies. By needy fellow parishioners of every class, the police-

man is treated with marked respect. One must not too curiously inquire whether fear or affection most commands it.

It is highly creditable to the executive that ample provision is made for the care and support of indigent members of the community. This charitable provision has never been neglected. In old times, when servants and retainers became disabled, masters housed, fed, and clothed them; centuries back, a traditional account relates how a rich lady, moved by priestly counsels, bequeathed her possessions for the benefit of those whose support was derived from alms-taking. The gift, so far as Sweden was concerned, had no practical significance, since there were none to claim it, and its benefits were transferred to other countries, in which mendicity was rampant. At the present day strolling beggars are a rare sight, especially in the country. All excuses are withdrawn by careful arrangements and periodical distributions of relief. If individuals are homeless, accommodation is supplied by almshouses and workhouses. Occupants and tenants contribute equally, and claims upon parishes are determined, in respect either of the parish of birth, or of that in which industrial residence has been ac-

quired. It is perhaps scarcely reasonable to draw a contrast between Sweden and England as regards pauperism and its treatment; undoubtedly we should not benefit by the contrast. In the former case the difficulties of management are as nothing in comparison. There are no over-crowded neighbourhoods to deal with, nor combinations of people whom professional robbery and plunder supply with the means of living. Controlling power is therefore infinitely more easy, but unhappily for us we have engrafted on our efforts to suppress mendicity a savage spirit, and at the same time signally failed. France, with its teeming population, manages things better, and if the beggar has been more effectively dealt with there, it is because no hard lines are drawn, and no command given that he shall disappear in an impossible manner. It was lately remarked that our Poor Law is eleemosynary in the worst sense of the word. The allowance merely suffices to sustain life in miserable fashion, and beyond doling out their allowance, we take no further interest in the recipients. Continental countries are not content to leave the pauper as they find him, and in their efforts to improve his condition and prospects, show us an example we would do well to imitate. Pauperism in Sweden, without

presenting any appalling picture, has considerable dimensions. Of almshouses and workhouses there are no fewer than 2129, and official returns to the end of 1865 show that 55,187 persons were in that year entirely supported by parochial relief, while, in the same period, 92,601 were partially relieved. Of the gross number of 147,788, upwards of 81,000 were women. The legislature continues to sanction the appropriation of public revenues, from sources which have no natural relations to the subject, for the support of the poor. A proportion of all penalties imposed in courts of law, as well as an eighth per cent. of legacy duties on succession to property, is devoted for the relief of pauperism.

The nation has long been accustomed to make provision for the insane, an inheritance bequeathed to it from Roman Catholic times. In each of those provinces where lunatic asylums have been established, the Governor and Bishop, are, *ex officiis*, chairman and vice-chairman respectively, four other members, named by the King, completing the board of management. The supervision, as well as accommodation of insane persons, has excited during this generation increased interest and attention. In the neighbourhood of Stockholm, on a bright and com-

manding site, having extensive grounds attached, a hospital of pleasing architectural design was opened a few years ago, capable of containing three hundred patients, and is regarded as a general model. Although inmates belonging to these institutions have exhibited for some time a steady increase, ample pecuniary support has been forthcoming, and pauper patients find an asylum at the very moderate charge of about seven pounds per annum. The change of treatment in recent years elsewhere observable, has been fully recognised by Swedish medical practitioners. Cruelty and brutality have been replaced by kindness and gentle persuasion, so that mad-houses have ceased to be regarded as loathsome prison-houses, in which obedience was too often enforced by the lash, or the clouded intellect taught submission by the violent onslaughts of ferocious attendants. At the end of 1866, the number of lunatics under legal restraint was 1500, but national prejudices have only been partially removed, and many are still at large who require careful treatment. An extension, and more stringent application of the Lunacy Law, would therefore be a humane contribution. We know, in England, how many cases of almost living interment have been disclosed to view, following upon the en-

largement of official authority, where human beings out of their mind have for years been cruelly concealed by members of their family, as if the affliction, instead of being a mere mental disease, involved some enormous moral guilt. Similar cases, dependent on this erroneous construction, without doubt exist in Sweden, in which not only are no efforts made to alleviate suffering, but the whole tendency in respect of treatment is towards the degradation of the invalids, who are reduced below the standard of the brute creation.

The deprivations of the deaf and dumb and blind have likewise excited the earnest interest of the benevolent. So far back as the year 1809 an institution for the care and education of this combined class was founded in the capital, under circumstances of peculiar difficulty, by Aaron Berg. This gentleman, who held an inferior appointment in one of the public offices, was compelled to leave it, owing to some difference with his chief, and sharing the versatility of his countrymen, for a time supported himself by teaching singing, and playing on the harp. Possibly his success as a professor had not realized his expectations, as, attracted by the efforts elsewhere of the Abbé de l'Epée, he opened a school for the education of deaf, dumb, and blind children.

One of his earliest pupils was a blind girl of surprising natural capacity, which Berg most successfully cultivated. Sjerling was the daughter of a strolling acrobat, and had been born blind. She soon became the right hand of the founder, and her proficiency, especially in languages and music, helped materially to obtain public sympathy and support. Being a new process which was to be developed, it had to contend with an unusual amount of scepticism. That persons under distressing natural deprivations should have the power of acquiring knowledge with facility, and of imparting it to others, was hardly conceivable, save on conditions which decent folks would reject; but an investigation by men in authority removed adverse impressions and forced approval. Mademoiselle Sjerling was no impostor, and Berg achieved his first triumph. Government lent its sanction, although the manner cannot be called magnificent. The new institution was voted a grant of four hundred and fifty dollars, equal to twenty-five pounds of our money. In the following year the Queen attended the examination of pupils and vouchsafed her royal patronage; but circumstances so adventitious were inadequate to confer unclouded prosperity. Hateful rumours were put in circulation,

and parents in landward districts hesitated to send forward their children. Disappointed though not cast down, upheld by a sense of the purity of his actions and the worthiness of the cause, Berg resolved to invade the provinces, accompanied by several of his pupils for the illustration of his method. They made the journey on foot, and their progress was that of a victorious army. The appearance of the children and their acquirements at once exposed calumny and imparted confidence, and such was the eagerness exhibited for admission, that applications greatly exceeded the means of meeting them. These suspicions removed, it might have been fairly anticipated that an institution which basked in the sunshine of royalty would suffer no reverses, especially as the Queen had been indefatigable in her attentions. Sixty years ago Queens were still vastly imperious personages, and by personal government most kingdoms with their belongings, great and small, were ruled. In this fashion her Majesty of Sweden was minded to guide the affairs of the Royal Hospital, while Berg manfully refused to endorse royal reforms. He retired from the direction, and until he returned to his old post, on differences being cemented, a settled cloud hung over the institution. It is long ago since its ad-

vantages have been universally acknowledged; at the end of 1867 the building in Stockholm contained 190 deaf and dumb, and 58 blind boys and girls. Of these, 166 were wholly maintained and educated from the hospital funds, and the remainder contributed the very moderate annual sum of 250 dollars each, or 14*l.* Education is directed according to the various conditions and tastes of the pupils, by tutors and governesses who have all been trained in the house. The course of training runs from six to eight years, having this general result, that many who would otherwise have been useless outcasts, have, by manual occupations of different kinds, supported themselves in comfort, while not a few have obtained excellence in science and art. The care taken, and the science applied in the treatment of the victims of a strange infirmity, have indeed exhibited some of the best human sympathies.

Statistics represent the number of blind in the country at about 3000, and of deaf and dumb at 2500. There are more blind women than men, and as might be expected, fewer dumb women than of the other sex! Berg's fame reached other countries, and on the invitation of the Government of Portugal he visited Lisbon, where a hospital was

established on the system he had successfully introduced at home.

Not any of the public institutions in Sweden deserve higher commendation than the hospitals in the largest towns for the benefit of the sick. Professional capacity, kindness, and cleanliness are conspicuous characteristics. They are popular with both rich and poor, and thus it frequently happens that patients from the country belonging to the former class seek admission, for whom limited accommodation, at a fixed tariff of charges, is provided.

CHAPTER IV.

SHOOTING AND FISHING.

THE authority to destroy, under the ancient law, what has come to be called "game," was of a liberal kind. Game-preserving squires will be shocked to hear that, in Sweden, the lives of neither hare nor deer were treated with consideration. Legal dicta announced,

> He may have the Hare who takes it;
> He may have the Fox who hunts it;
> He may have the Wolf who traps it;
> He may have the Bear who kills it;
> He may have the Elk who fells it;
> He may have the Otter who snares it.

But things have changed since those days, and now there are game laws strict enough on paper, but feebly enforced. The extent of forests sheltering securely a great variety both of winged and ground vermin

makes "preserving" in our sense an impossibility; while from the depth and long continuance of snow, "trapping" is an easy as well as remunerative vocation. From this source Stockholm and other towns receive large supplies during the winter months. It is computed that of blackcock, the hazel grouse,* and ripa (*ptarmigan*) alone, between 200,000 and 300,000 are forwarded on sledges every season. There is what may be called a Government system of game preserving, head rangers being attached to each province, who pay money, according to a tariff, for every beast and bird of prey killed. The larger and wilder animals are annually diminishing, but the destruction has no perceptible influence on the number of others. The Swedes like to statisticize everything, and recent returns give some particulars not without interest. These show that during five years there has been an average slaughter of 117 bears, 162 wolves, 110 lynx, 5396 foxes; and of winged vermin,

* The hazel hen is an excellent bird for the table, and an universal favourite. According to M. Winhelm von Wright, "the Finns entertain the very singular notion that at the Creation this bird was the largest of the feathered tribe, but that year by year it has decreased in size, and will continue to do so, until at last it will become so very diminutive as to be able to fly through the eye of a needle, and when that happens, the world will come to an end."

1908 eagles, hawks, and falcons, and 1013 owls. In the same period the aggregate loss sustained through the joint ravages of vermin is estimated at 15,000*l.*, and some idea may be formed of the destruction of game by the fact that poultry yards, naturally more or less protected, have suffered according to *reported* cases (and large allowance must be made for cases not reported) to the respectable amount of 1600*l.*

Of late years we have been exchanging specimens of game. The capercali now flourishes on a few wide domains in Scotland, where he can luxuriate on the young twigs of the pine, his favourite food, and the Messrs. Dickson, of Gottenberg, have imported grouse in some quantities, and found that they were easily acclimatized. The comparatively small extent of suitable ground alone prevents their becoming general, but moor and mosslands are not to be found in every district.

It is an utter fallacy to imagine that Sweden, taking it all in all, is a country for good shooting. As a rule, it is not to be compared with what we leave behind at home. There are some portions, it is true, where the sportsman may have exciting practice, to enjoy which he must provide for a short campaign and make up his mind to "rough it." If he will

direct his steps to Dalècarlia, and the fells towards the Norwegian frontier, he will find every species of furred and feathered game peculiar to the country, and may reckon upon large bags. In more civilized districts, however, the ordinary kinds are scarce, and an eager amateur will be sorely disappointed. He will have no difficulty in obtaining permission to range over miles of country without the risk of being collared by saucy keepers, nor do such nuisances as game certificates help to swell the revenues of Swedish Chancellors of Exchequer. The penalties under the law are greatest in the case of the elk. He is the most valuable of the deer species, and well worth careful protection, some specimens having been known to weigh as much as 1300 to 1400 pounds. Elks have other enemies than man, and wolves during winter often make sad ravages among them. A combination of circumstances had conspired so prejudicially, that for forty years there was a prohibition against killing elks except in every tenth year, but since then they have increased to such an extent in many parts of the peninsula, that authority is now given to hunt them from the 1st of August to the 1st of December inclusive. Devices for snaring the elk are common, but adventurous sportsmen,

wearing snow-shoes, prefer to track them, and the pursuit is occasionally continued for two or three days. The natives used to hold very extravagant ideas respecting this animal. His legs were without knees and joints. He did not therefore lay himself down to sleep, but found repose by leaning majestically against some friendly tree. His long upper lip made it necessary he should adopt a novel fashion in browsing, and when he did, he walked backwards. He was subject to fits of epilepsy, but nature had supplied him with a valuable prescription, and so by opening with his hind foot a vein at the back of the ear, appalling symptoms were promptly removed!

At one time the red deer and roebuck were common in most districts, but their numbers have greatly diminished, and are now confined principally to southern provinces. Among the many good things, great and small, attributed to Gustaf Wasa, he is said to have introduced the red deer, although this would seem to be without foundation, since fossil remains have been discovered in great mosses, which show that it is an indigenous representative. The diminutive size of the animal is a proof of the influence of climate and feeding. In Germany the same species is larger than in

Scotland, and the Scotch twice as big as that in Sweden.

The game season is not of long continuance. By November snipe, woodcock, and duck have migrated, and such birds as remain in the forests sit perched up high among the trees, where it is difficult either to disturb or reach them.

Bear hunting was the sport which used to supply the greatest excitement, and the country people, in forces of several hundreds, turned out to avenge themselves on some old couple and their offspring which had been making foray upon cattle and sheep. Mr. Lloyd, a mighty hunter, has told the world about his exploits and adventures, extending over a period long enough for the lifetime of ordinary mortals, and says that bears are now altogether confined to the northern parts of the peninsula, where they are less numerous than formerly. The Ursus Arctos of Linnæus is the only kind known in Scandinavia. M. Falk, a Swede who has destroyed no less than eighty-six bears, thus enthusiastically glorifies the sport. "If any kind of hunting tends to harden the body, strengthen the mind, and enable us to meet the dangers that may cross our path in life, it is that of the bear, and the man who calmly enters into combat with this king of the forest, will

not in all probability tremble at the sight of the enemy's ranks."

The northern Fauna includes, of game birds, the portly capercali, blackcock, the hazel hen, the dal-ripa (ptarmigan) of several varieties, the common partridge, the common quail, the great bustard (although rare), the woodcock, and snipe of different kinds. During spring and autumn the lakes and rivers swarm with aquatic birds of ample variety; the mallard, teal, wigeon, the golden eye, the goosander, the merganser, and divers gulls and terns, the shelldrake, &c. In the fall of the year in many localities excellent wild goose shooting may be had, and at the same season and the breaking up of frost in spring, wild swans pay "flying visits." At that period both descriptions keep company, which, says Nordholm, in his account of Helsingland, has impressed the common people with an opinion, from the one being much less in size than the other, that geese are no other than the young of swans!

There are, belonging to the game family, a few curious specimens of hybrids. Those between the capercali and blackcock are not uncommon, and, more rarely, crosses between blackcock and ptarmigan

are found. The capercali is easily domesticated, and crosses have succeeded between him and the turkey, although, for useful purposes, the experiment is without value.

Nature has invested most men with a love of sport, but the Swedes are not ambitious representatives, and although a fowling-piece is amongst the first wishes to be gratified, it is ordinarily of such primitive construction, and the ammunition so atrociously bad, that one wonders how any deadly results follow. The indifference about the species to practise upon is almost ridiculous. It may be that woodpeckers are preferred to sparrows, but a string of either is a trophy highly considered!

Heathcote got up a *chasse* on grand scale specially on my account. A general holiday was announced, and the farm servants, noisy and tumultuous, were our beaters—his nearest, although not near, neighbours arrived, and in such gay equipments as to recall the description given of the uniform of other foreign sportsmen, that it partook equally of a field-marshal's and a Swiss church beadle's. We did not find great abundance, but pleasing varieties. The "patrons" carried huge knives, and shocked me by the savage manner in which

they disembowelled unhappy hares. Not a drop of blood remained; what dishonouring treatment in the eyes of an English cook!* Vulpicide prevailed to a discreditable extent. No foxes die a glorious death. Poor reynard's skin is a coveted possession, and he receives neither sympathy nor protection. Such cheerful sounds as "Tally ho!" "Hark away!" attend him not. That day half a dozen specimens swelled the bags of Swedish Nimrods. We saw no wolves or bears—associated in the minds of most men with the wilds of Scandinavia—but a solitary elk dashed through the beaters, and disappointed our best efforts to bring him down.

Our return was welcomed by the most sumptuous of feasts. Soyer himself never presented more fasci-

* "The hare, as soon as killed, is disembowelled, and its head, with the exception of the ears, which remain attached to the skin, is severed from the body. The only reason I could ever hear alleged for this very strange custom, which is usually adopted in Sweden, is that if a woman in a state of pregnancy was to see the head of the animal, her offspring would inevitably have a hare-lip."—*Lloyd's Adventures in Scandinavia.*

Other parts of the hare are attractive. According to Linnæus the fur is used by the Dalecarlian girls as a "flea trap." From having noticed the fondness of fleas for its peculiar warmth and shelter, they ingeniously resolved to benefit by the observation, and wear about their persons a kilot or ball, which it is hoped they find altogether efficacious!

nating combinations, and our kind hostess attended to us with delightful impartiality. Swedish punch, and my friend's bright and sparkling wines—a dangerous mixture—soon exerted their influence. After national fashion, we charged bumper full our glasses, which we drained, and then bringing them into lively contact, vowed eternal friendship.

Béranger would have been delighted.

> "L'amitié qui trinque pour boire
> Boit bien plus encore pour trinquer!"

The parish priest had joined the party, a bulky man (like the description of a jovial Scotch judge), with large paunch, twinkling eyes, and purple visage, who, however inefficient he must have proved in the morning, was now in a sphere of high enjoyment. His talk was chiefly political. He hated Russia for its robbery of Finland; loaded with infamy the memory of the first Napoleon; prayed for the unity of Italy, and seemed to regret he had not placed his services at the disposal of Garibaldi. His compatriots did their best to draw him out, and so perfectly succeeded, that when at length the effort became indispensable, Heathcote and I found it no labour of love to deposit his reverence for the night in the best bedroom.

Good fishing is not general, and the ardent angler will be disappointed if he imagines that every great expanse of water is to afford anything like real sport. The number of lakes and lochs is marvellous, and in one parish in Norrland these are said to exceed the days of the year. It has been computed that the lakes cover one-eighth of the whole surface, that is, over 20,000 square miles. Nearly every landed proprietor who owns the shore of either lake, fjord, or river, lets the *ex adverso* right of fishing, and this practice must of course diminish the chances of sportsmen, so that if one is to succeed with his rod, he must look well about, and select some trouting stream, or loch, at a respectable distance from the usual haunts of men. In Dalecarlia, for example, these are readily to be found, and his solitude will be cheered by ample stores of first-rate char and trout. The larger towns are extensively supplied with fresh-water fish, pike, bream, herring, and salmon being the favourite sorts, as told in the following doggrel, which also names the localities where the most approved specimens of each are found :—

"Hjelmaren *gädde*, och Sotare *brax*
Mälare *sik* och Elfkarleby *lax*
Ar basta fisk in Sverige tags."

Salmon fishing in the few rivers in the south is let, so that the casual angler has no opportunities there, and those on the eastern coast, north of Stockholm, are of little value ; but, according to Mr. Lloyd, one may have the good fortune to land salmon without tackle of any kind. He says, "A man one day was rowing quietly across the Gotha, when of a sudden an immense salmon that had been disporting himself in the air fell headlong into his boat, where he was quickly captured!"

Some of the inland lochs have such hard and unpronounceable names that memory rebels. In that respect they partially rival those Transatlantic lakes noticed not long ago in an American paper, which, with characteristic facetiousness, announced that the fish in Lake Hollyhunkemunk were superior to those of either Lake Weelyobacook or Moosetockmegantuc. The paragraph added that the fish of Chauhungogungamaung were also very fine, but that they all got choked in trying to tell where they lived!

CHAPTER V.

THE COUNTRY AND COUNTRY EXCURSIONS—HARVEST HOME AND WEDDING PARTIES.

THE scenery presents none of the wild grandeur of Norway, neither in variety nor splendour can it compare with the Highlands of Scotland; pleasing it always is, and one's enthusiasm would be excited but for its endless monotony. The country is a series of beautiful landscapes, hardly differing in detail, consisting of broken rocky ground, richly wooded and interspersed with water. The same constancy of repetition pervades the water scenery, of which the most attractive is on the large lakes, great numbers of small islets, planted by nature with birch and juniper, rising from them in every direction. There is much to remind of the description of the Trossachs, except that the boldness is wanting.

"The copsewood grey
That waved and wept on Loch Achray,
And mingled with the pine trees blue
On the bold cliffs of Ben Venue."

We were constantly making excursions, and visited the scenes of ancient battle-fields on which the descendants of Odin had asserted their authority, and some curious remains of the strongholds of Vikings—formidable fortresses in their time, though they would have been of small avail as the science of war is practised now-a-days. If it be true that Archæology is the handmaid of History, and that the man who would be a proficient need not count on attaining his object by the most laborious examination of books and manuscripts, let him travel in Scandinavia, and witness those numerous material remains that will repay his toil. Such as he, would have envied our inspection of Druidical circles preserved with superstitious care, and sculptured stones, with their strange hieroglyphical characters and devices. One of these, supposed to mark the grave of a prince of distinction, stood near the homestead, and had a local legend belonging to it. Long ago its removal was desired, and twice the stone had been carried to a distance of some hundred yards, but the new quarters proving unsatisfactory, it mysteriously rolled itself back to the old spot, on which,

standing erect in solitary grandeur, it has since remained, an object of profound veneration!

An eager botanist would have found ample opportunities of improving his knowledge, and for a tyro it was impossible to withhold admiration from the wildflowers, shrubs, and other plants, which everywhere presented themselves in profuse variety. I made myself useful by assisting to gather in huge supplies of cranberries, which every household counts amongst its precious things. As a preserve they are in universal use, and a Swede would as soon think of eating meat and game without them, as an Englishman his roast beef ungarnished by horseradish. In such quantities is the fruit found, that after satisfying the fabulous native demand, many tons are annually exported to the markets of Great Britain.

My host drove me to church one Sunday, but his bacchanalian reverence of the preceding chapter did not officiate; indeed, he rarely aired his theology, a circumstance which was not viewed with parochial regret. Sweden is rich in objects of interest to the ecclesiologist. In this instance the church was on an eminence, and without architectural ornament. An old belfry with a single bell stood a

few yards apart. Like many of our own public buildings, the doctrines both of Popery and Protestantism had been heard within its walls. Its exterior bore a curious resemblance to numerous churches in Scotland, which have been alternately claimed by Papists, Presbyters, and Episcopalians, and again by Presbyterians. There were no galleries, the female members occupying one side of the area, to the exclusion of husbands and adorers. An average British amount of somnolency was apparent, and tender passages produced moderate showers of tears. Immediately before the benediction, and amid silence the most respectful, the priest proceeded to read from sundry slips of paper. There was no drowsiness now, and all were eager listeners. Sales of crop, live stock, and timber were announced; restless animals that had strayed from their folds were described, and rewards offered for their recovery. No public parochial event was excluded from this popular miscellany. The variety was charming. It was the same sort of thing I could remember thirty years ago in Scotch parishes, except that the minister, and not the beadle, was the advertising medium, and the pulpit, and not a gravestone, the spot whence the announcements were made. Happily, in this instance

the parson gave no running commentaries of his own, as some of our officials used to do. The churchyard is an odd place for facetiæ, but judging by the general merriment on these occasions, it would not seem to have so struck rural congregations. The Swedes make an arbitrary division of Saturday and Sunday. According to them Sunday commences at six o'clock on Saturday evening, leaving Sunday evening, from the same hour, open for recreation of all sorts. I did not hear that Saturday evenings were distinguished by devotional exercises, but I do know that those of Sunday are specially set apart for the Opera and the theatre in towns, and that if a pretext can be found, the worshippers of Terpsichore appropriate them in the country. In fact, the Swedes spend Sunday as in Roman Catholic countries, and in towns there is this further resemblance, that in the churches men are in striking minorities. Both things are to be regretted. It is not a mere prudish feeling which makes our countrymen declare for that placid and respectful observance of Sunday, with which we are accustomed to associate much of the happiness of domestic life, and they dislike when a contrary state of things is contended for and applauded. In 1790

Miss Wolstonecroft, better known as Mrs. Godwin,* a woman of great powers, scoffed at its English observance and gave a preference to the continental rule. She says: "The Sunday evenings in Sweden, as in Catholic countries, are spent in exercises which exhilarate the spirits without vitiating the heart. The rest of labour ought to be gay, and the gladness I have felt in France, on Sunday or Decadi, which I caught from the faces around me, was a sentiment more truly religious than all the stupid stillness which the streets of London ever inspired, where the Sabbath is so decorously observed. I recollect in the country parts of England, the churchwardens used to go out during the service to see if they could catch any luckless wight playing at bowls or skittles, yet what could be more harmless? It would even I think be a great advantage to the English if feats of activity—I do not include boxing—were encouraged on a Sunday, as it might stop the progress of Methodism, and of that fanatical spirit which is rapidly gaining ground." This *fast* lady had previously written a treatise of some contemporary celebrity, called "A Vindication of the Rights

* "Letters written during a short Residence in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark."

of Women." It is devoutly to be hoped that strong minded females of this age, who parade the unjust treatment of their sex, do not endorse *all* Mrs. Godwin's opinions, and are more orthodox in their teaching of the Decalogue.

The country folks like to put on their holiday attire, and if its *mode* is somewhat quaint, it is pleasant to see how respectable they look in it. Man and wife rarely walk to church abreast—the former stumps on in front, and she, with Prayer-book in hand, which is enclosed in a white pocket-handkerchief, follows at a few paces. The husband's attire is usually the more elaborate of the two. He is clothed in black; perhaps it is his marriage suit, not badly preserved, for twenty years may have run their course since some village Snip gave it the finishing stitch. The roads are clean and dustless. What of that? His respectability would be impeached were he not the wearer of goloshes, and though the sky is cloudless, that is no reason why the largest of umbrellas should not be tenderly hugged by him. A mouthful of snuff, which he chews complacently, adds to his content and enjoyment.*

* The lower classes smoke little, but the practice of eating snuff is nearly universal.

The annual harvest-home was precipitated on my account. I heartily enjoyed it, though it was impossible to have done so more than those did who mainly contributed to its success. There is no other country where the love of dancing is more truly loyal. The neighbouring "Bondes" and "Torpors" were present with their best specimens of womankind; and farm servants and their sweethearts were supremely happy. The schoolmaster was the presiding musical genius, and the "patron" and his wife by their pleasant presence and genial bearing threw a charm over all. Round dances were the favourite sort, and in the style of execution would have done honour to a fashionable assembly anywhere. Copious allowances of national beverages made fatigue impossible. Thus inspired, rural orators put in practice their best powers of eloquence, whose theme was the virtues of their "English lord" and his lady. As a demonstration of special goodwill, on our preparing to say "good night" the host and hostess and myself were, each of us in succession, placed on a chair and thus hoisted on the shoulders of the most stalwart, while round about us danced in uproarious merriment the guests, of all ages and both sexes. The people bore a striking general phy-

siognomical resemblance to our own. The men were as well grown, and the women very pleasant to look upon. The headgear was excessively becoming; a handkerchief, varied in colour, according to the taste of owners, tied under the chin, slightly shaded both sides of the face, giving it the much-envied oval form, and increased the pleasing effect. I was reminded of Burns's lines, if I did not seriously contemplate the grave question with which they conclude:

"Lassie wi' the lint-white locks,
Bonnie lassie, artless lassie,
Wilt thou wi' me tent the flocks,
Wilt thou be my dearie O?"

I had the good fortune to be present at a wedding. The pair belonged to the humblest class, and the feast was provided by the contributions of well-wishers. A marriage without its feast would be an imperfect ceremony, and practically this has been the view long entertained. "In wedding entertainments the Swedes have ever affected pomp and great superfluity beyond the perfection of their abilities, for by the excess of one day oftentimes many of them involve themselves in such inconvenience as they feel many years."* In this instance

* "An Account of Sweden." London, 1717.

it was pleasant to know that such evil consequences would not follow, albeit the tables laid out in a spacious loft literally groaned under edibles which a friendly public had collected. The religious part of the marriage ceremony,* having nothing very peculiar about it, was followed by the wedding supper, at whose termination tables no longer groaned. Dancing then commenced, but ere that became general, the crown of myrtle-leaves which the bride always wears had to be "danced off." On one side stand the married women, hand in hand; on the other the unmarried women, in similar position, and the bride, having first been blindfolded, is led into the centre. The women dance round her, and she, swaying her arms with desperate energy, makes efforts, as in "blind-man's buff," to catch any who approaches her. The excitement and struggles continue, until the crown loosen and falls from her head, and the girl on whose person it descends, is to be the next victim on the altar of Hymen. But there are other formalities still to be enacted. The single women have enclosed

* The clergyman places the marriage ring on the third finger of the *right* hand. In the middle and upper classes, a betrothal ring is also universally worn, on the same finger, of similar character. Men likewise wear the same description of ring.

the bride, and the matrons must fight for her possession. The contest is spiritedly conducted—the unfortunate bride running a serious risk of having arms dislocated—and at length terminates by the triumph of the matrons, among whom she is now enrolled without further interruption. Benedicts and bachelors carry on a similar contention for the bridegroom, except that the treatment he receives is of a rougher sort. Then the married couple dance with everybody, and everybody hopes for the speedy advent of a like occasion.

The familiar process of marriage by banns prevails, and these banns have to be called on three successive Sundays. As Sir Roundell Palmer recently observed in the House of Commons, "well-to-do people get over the literal performance of the law's obligation by influencing the session clerk to call on the three sets of banns altogether," and under the silver teaching of the Swedes, their officials have come to practise the same description of legerdemain. It did not always happen that the marriage customs in Scandinavia were of the present peaceful character. The ancient warrior thought it unbecoming his dignity to seek a woman's love by gallantry and submission, and so it often happened, that having fixed upon his future wife,

he bided his time, and by the aid of followers, overpowered her friends and carried her off as she was being escorted to be married to another man. As marriages at that time were generally performed at night, darkness favoured this hostile courtship. In a pleasant book recently published,* it is recorded that in a church in Gothland there is still preserved a pile of lances which were carried before the bridegroom, for the double purpose of light and protection. The most stalwart friend, thus provided, was selected as the groom's man, and led the way—hence the common expression of "best man," which we likewise adopt, although perhaps not for the same reason. In more modern times there were other peculiarities which preceded marriage. The same authority informs us that a few days previously the bride was conducted ceremoniously to a bath, attended by female friends, who carried vessels of beer and wine, and cinnamon, sugar, and cakes. After the lavation all wore garlands of flowers, and supped and danced with their affianced companion. On the wedding evening she was attended to Church by persons bearing torches, from which were suspended

* "The Wedding-day in all Ages and Countries." London, 1869.

cords and ribands of variegated colours. Her pockets were filled with bread, which she distributed among the poor she met, and each piece possessed the charm of averting some otherwise inevitable misfortune. The bridegroom had garlic, chives, and rosemary sewn into his pockets to guard him from the wilfulness of "Trolle" and to exorcise evil spirits in general. If the bride was a prudent woman she would not forget to place her right foot, on reaching the altar, in advance of the bridegroom, to give her the controlling power in home affairs, and if they possessed cattle and horses, the stable and cow-house must be the first visit they paid, to secure for their stock health and fecundity. Still later, respecting Swedish alliances it has been remarked,* "that they are totally governed by the will of parents, and founded so much on interest that the inclination of the parties is little regarded, nor is the nation much troubled by the extravagances of lovers!" If it be true that

> "Wedlock joins nothing, if it joins not hearts,
> Marriage was never meant for coat of arms,"

this was a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, but

* "An Account of Sweden, by a Person of Influence."

it has altered for the better during these hundred and fifty years. The god of Love exercises an extensive influence, and nowhere are the "extravagances" which this cold-blooded old man sneers at, more demonstratively exhibited. Marriages of convenience no doubt do occur—as they occur all the world over—but it is a libel to assert that, as a rule, in this part of Scandinavia, Mammon's authority is paramount to Cupid's. Pope's lines apply to Swedes as to English.

> "Fair tresses our imperial race ensnare,
> And beauty draws us with a single hair!"

There is one day of the week to be strictly avoided in the celebration of marriage. Thursday, the day of Thor, being regarded as pagan property, no Christian ceremonies must then take place.*

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* The amount of illegitimate children is discreditable to public morals. One would scarcely credit its extent if statistics did not supply incontestible evidence. It ought to be stated however, that the condition of great numbers is restored *per subsequens matrimonium* of the parents. It is feared that since Mr. Laing's time (see Laing's "Observations in Sweden," a very interesting book) matters have not very perceptibly improved. His figures are appalling. Bad as things are in the country, they are still worse in towns. He gives the proportion in London as 1 in 38. In Stockholm it was as 1 to $2\frac{3}{10}$.

CHAPTER VI.

AN OLD NOBILITY.

THE son of Gustavus Wasa made the distinction of nobility hereditary, three hundred years ago. Great gallantry on the battle-field or important services of other kinds used to receive acknowledgment, but titles were not transmissible, and "life peerages" were then the order of the day. If mere numbers could give authority, the Swedish nobility should indeed be powerful; but numerical strength in this instance, has, in point of fact, a tendency to diminish rather than increase its consideration. Under patents preceding the present century, the prefix of Count and Baron is borne by all the sons of each house, and handed down in like manner through subsequent generations. With the exception of England, Sweden

is the only country in which the rule prevails of the daughter of a nobleman who marries a simple gentleman continuing to retain her courtesy title. These two conventionalisms combine to maintain in great force the titled class, while the reduced, and occasionally needy circumstances, of many members affect injuriously its social repute. Mere courtly decorations, in such a case become positive encumbrances. Except by way of burlesque, one does not like to see the inheritor of a historic name discharging, however efficiently, the offices of a tavern attendant; and although it need not detract from her personal worthiness, we would rather not hear of the sharer of a coronet gaining her daily bread as the landlady of a third-rate lodging-house. Poverty in the eyes of riches makes soiled ermine, but the cause is due more to the system than to individuals, who are in truth to be commiserated. Among those who have succeeded in maintaining an independent position, there is much entitling to respect. You meet many highly educated men, distinguished by the enlightenment of their opinions as well as the warmth of their hearts.

"Incoctum generoso pectus honesto,"

who have not forgotten the advice of one of their old

kings, to "cultivate the arts, and the people will follow your example," and whose gracious deportment and genial kindness make intercourse vastly agreeable. From some travellers, who, notwithstanding their expressed obligations for much hospitality, and a certain boastful reference to having basked in the sunshine of royalty, have written disparagingly of the good breeding of Swedish ladies, condescending to some particulars which really prove nothing at all,* I venture thoroughly to differ, and appeal from such strictures to the broader testimony of men of ampler opportunities, to assert, that for refined sentiments and the charms of simple and unaffected address, the female portion of the aristocracy need fear no injurious comparison with the same class in any other European community. It is preposterous to call foreigners ill-bred, simply from their minor customs and our own being frequently dissimilar. Each nation under the sun has certain distinctive manners, and it is surely unreasonable to contend that, because Swedes choose to make use of "knives" where we prefer the services of "forks," they expose themselves to the charge of being vulgar! What

* Marryat's "One Year in Sweden."

rule defines a knife to be vulgar, and a fork to be genteel? Conventional usages ought to have some influence, and all Germany as well as Sweden would protest, if its preference for knives should be a reason for classing it with the vulgar herd. To take another instance; there are many French ladies whose humour it is to sit down to breakfast enveloped in shady dressing-gowns, with their tresses in curl-papers. If an Englishwoman in England should so present herself, she would be ostracised, and her conduct spoken of as an outrage, but in France the custom is both practised and protected, and no one will be courageous enough to call French women vulgar! Besides, to speak plainly, we ought not to be hypercritical, for continental nations are yet unimpressed with the idea that the English people are the best exponents of polished deportment. Instead of adopting such impressions, let us rather bear in mind that for 200 years we have been accustomed to associate with Swedish ladies courtesy and good breeding. I prefer to hold by that certificate, and to discard for ever the officious criticisms of modern punctiliousness. Here is the opinion of a venerable beau: "As for the women they are well-featured and proper in person, very modest and

courteous, loving to their husbands, and affable to strangers."*

Although the peerage was made hereditary in the time of Eric XIV., family patronymics were not adopted until the reign of Gustavus Adolphus, and the animals and devices carried on shields from early times, chiefly supplied them. Thus, Lejonhufved (lion-headed) Swinhufved (boar-headed)—others might have been borrowed from chiefs of North American Indians—interpreted they mean—"the royal sunbeam," "the silver sword," "the golden heart." There are several noble houses which easily connect themselves with English and Scottish descent. The "Hamiltons" and the "Douglases" retain the surnames their ancestors carried so proudly, but others have assumed patronymics more in unison with those of the land of their adoption. One owning the plebeian surname of "Scraggs" had received an order of nobility; but even in Sweden, where there are many rugged words, a more euphonious title was deemed advisable, and so the ennobled Scraggs, borrowing a suggestion from his robes of state, called himself "Hermelin" (ermine), whose de-

* Clark's "Description of the World." 1689.

scendants represent several families of consideration at the present day. The patriot Baron of the name in the last century was one of them.

An interesting sight to tourists using the old route by water between Stockholm and Gottenberg, is the mortuary chapel which contains the tombs of the Douglas family, who have long been Counts of Sweden. Several cadets of the house emigrated in the time of Cromwell, and during the Thirty Years' War, by services in the field, brilliantly supported the hereditary gallantry of their race. In the chapel are rich emblazonments of the family arms, conspicuous among them being the "bloody heart." Several banners won from the Austrians by the prowess of "the Douglas" are hung upon its walls.

Another family of native origin, having a well-known historical pendant, likewise survives. The Counts of Rhensjerna (reindeer star) are indebted for their rank to the intrepidity of an ancestor, who, receiving early information of an intended irruption on Swedish territory, started in his sledge, drawn by a reindeer, from Umea, on the Gulf of Bothnia, to apprize the King. He reached Stockholm after a journey of nearly 500 English miles, performed in the almost incredibly short space of eight-and-forty

hours, but the exertion proved too much for the willing deer, which dropped dead when further efforts were unnecessary.*

The old nobility of Sweden and of ancient Rome had a common resemblance in being addicted to agriculture as their sole occupation, and having the defence of their country as the only obligation put upon them. They and their successors proved invaluable support to the warlike princes who secured national independence and increased national renown in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.

Besides the two higher grades of Count and Baron, titular rank exists in lavish abundance and is jealously vindicated. Everybody able to trace some nobility of descent, no matter how remote, claims to be addressed as "Wälborne Herr" (Well-born Sir), which is also accorded conventionally to the com-

* In connexion with this episode, Mr. Marryat commits a strange blunder. The distance travelled he gives with approximate correctness, but fixes the time at *four* or *five* hours! Now this would be at the rate of 100 miles an hour—twice the speed of our fastest railway trains, and throws the best performances of Dick Turpin on Black Bess completely into the shade. But more remarkable still, and in defiance of the veracity of Swedish Fryxells and the authority of English grammarians, he announces, "The *horse who* performed the feat fell down dead on arriving at Stockholm!"

panions of the various orders of knighthood, and to all officers in the army and navy. Other men who cannot summon to their aid these distinctions, feel offended if on their letters "Högadle Herr" (High and Noble Sir) is not inscribed, to which they have the same right, whatever that may be, as the tens of thousands among ourselves who, by appropriating the title of "Esquire," have deprived it of any real significance.

It is thought that some limitation to titles of nobility might be generally acceptable, and in one respect this would help to assimilate the condition of society in the two kingdoms. Charles XIV., better known as Bernadotte, passed a law for abolishing the hereditary nobility in Norway, and the Norwegians were content to accept the change in the light of an improvement. Partly from its abundance, and the worldly decay of many who retain titles, nobility has little of the exclusiveness with which we connect it in Great Britain. Indeed, among classes in Sweden there is an easier intercourse, although select coteries do exist, and publish those autocratic decrees we know about, which would be amusing if they were not also tyrannical; but all nobles are not so particular, and some by the choice

of their boon companions show that they adopt the republican notions which declare for *égalité et fraternité.*

Orders of knighthood are prizes eagerly appropriated. Military and naval officers, parsons, doctors and lawyers, literary, scientific, and mercantile men, and country gentlemen, all share this kind of reward. The order of the Seraphin, as it is the highest, is likewise the most exclusive. With the exception of royal personages, it is restricted to four-and-twenty members of the nobility, of whom only those are eligible who boast an uninterrupted noble descent, both on father and mother's side, of at least four generations. It is the Swedish blue ribbon. The course of six centuries has not tarnished its lustre, or made it less an object of national ambition. The motto, "Jesus hominum Salvator," is one to animate by its example, and hence the special duty of knights to defend the widow and orphan, to care for the poor and distressed, and to aid in general works of charity and philanthropy.

The flower of this old nobility have long associated themselves with the regiments of the King's Own Hussars and the Guards. These future Knights of the Seraphin are fine looking men, and admirably

mounted. If a noble English poet had not been already inspired, their appearance might have suggested to him his lines—

> "Let wealth and commerce, laws and learning die,
> But leave us still our old nobility!"

CHAPTER VII.

THE MILITARY SYSTEM.

IT was an old Scandinavian saying that "Valour is man's only treasure," and the history of the people proved how true it was in their estimation. The army has always presented great numerical strength in proportion to the population, but the martial spirit which animated every subject imposed no yoke that was not cheerfully borne. For centuries the Swedes were a warlike race; we ourselves suffered from their inroads as they assisted their Danish neighbours. There were constant civil feuds, the creation and dethronement of petty sovereigns, and more serious collisions with their brother Northmen. At one time we find Norway under the enforced rule of Sweden. Then Sweden is the vassal alternately of Norway and Denmark; and again a temporary union

places the three kingdoms under the crown of Denmark, so that until Gustaf Wasa rose up to assert their liberties and consolidate authority, the Swedes were either suffering from, or under constant dread of, irruptions, without leisure to devote to the arts of peace, and knowing nothing of the humanizing influences that follow in its train. The wars especially of Gustavus Adolphus and Charles XII., necessitated great military preparations and a powerful standing army, while the flame of discord which lighted up the whole European Continent in the end of the last century and the first years of the present, early reached Sweden, and once more threatened the independence of the Fatherland. But these times have passed away. Peace has long been undisturbed, and no internal commotions threaten the safety of the commonwealth. Of the national sword, like the sword of Hudibras, it may be said,

> "The trenchant blade, Toledo trusty,
> For lack of fighting has grown rusty."

Yet the system of military recruiting continues, and the army is thus an encumbrance on the industry of the country. Adam Smith long ago pointed out that a regular army in a perfect state of discipline was the first element of national defence,

But the Swedish army, regarding it as a whole, is without the preparation which makes that condition of things possible. On paper it represents more than 120,000 men; but of this large number the only regiments which are kept on duty all the year round are the King's Own Hussars, the Artillery, and Engineers. The other portions of the regular army have but three months' military exercise, and the conscript mustering probably between 70,000 and 80,000, including all young men from twenty-one to twenty-five, does not meet for drill for a longer period than a few weeks annually. Therefore it seems unreasonable to look for efficiency, and plain speaking would call a military education of six weeks extending over a couple of years "playing at soldiers." If that is so, on what good grounds is this demand upon reproductive labour persisted in? Does any neighbouring State menace the independence of Sweden? The Scandinavian Unity, if not in the full sense some would desire,* has been

* Mr. Stephens, in a recent elaborate work on "The Old Northern Runic Monuments of Scandinavia and England," points to a confederation far more extensive than the ancient kingdom of Cnut. He is for one sceptre to sway "the seas and coasts of our Fatherland from the Thames to the North Cape, from Finland to the Eider."

strengthened by the marriage of the Prince of Denmark and the only child of the King of Sweden, and both countries are less likely than ever to provoke acts of aggression. If at one time there was either a well-founded or exaggerated dread of Russia, that exists no longer. Besides, if the maintenance of a costly system associates itself with an idea that it could resist the inroads of Muscovite forces, nothing could be more fallacious. We have no Charles XII. now-a-days, and Russia, if so disposed, might, in the shortest space, cover the country with an army fully equipped, bearing no mean numerical proportion to the whole available population of Norway and Sweden united.

The cry of "Danger of Invasion" too frequently proceeds from some military coterie. It has been periodically sounded in England, and the Swedes are familiar with the same sort of thing. Professional promotion is best secured by a course of active preparations, and it is natural for civilians to view such with jealousy, when they are unimpressed by their necessity. Sir Robert Peel, whose practical wisdom all the world acknowledges, rebuked persevering efforts to maintain large war establishments in time of peace under the plea of being prepared for invasion; and on

another occasion he gave utterance to words which every civilized nation would do well to take to heart, especially in these days of universally expressed desire for peace, during which the armaments of Europe have been increased and not diminished. "I do hope," said the illustrious statesman, "that one great and most beneficial effect of the advance of civilization, the diffusion of knowledge, and the extension of commerce, will be the reducing within proper dimensions, the fame, the merit, and the reward of military achievements, and that juster notions of the moral dignity of, and of the moral obligations due to, those who apply themselves to preserve peace, and avoid the *éclat* of war, will be the consequence."

A careful revision of the present military system with reference to the altered condition of the country and its neighbours would be useful employment for statesmen who are by no means overworked. It has been already remarked, that, except in politics, the Swedes hold strongly conservative opinions. Their peasant proprietors are attached to the oldest ploughs; the saws and axes in the hands of their woodmen have rarely yielded to the improvements of modern times; in many of their mills and mines

curiously antique gearing is still in requisition, and their ancient fondness for military armaments is not diminished. War itself being one of the oldest institutions the world possesses, its very antiquity increases national regard. Viewing the question in a practical light, the arrangements and preparations now subsisting have no reasonable bearing upon the political position of the country, and in so far as its industrial interests are concerned, the military system is a source of weakness. Those for the support of the principal portion of what is called the regular army are peculiar. After a prescribed period of service, soldiers receive pensions, the burden of which the landocracy bears. Soldiers on the active as well as pensioned lists—except the few who are on continuous yearly duty—do not reside in barracks, but are located all over the country, in cottages having small quantities of land attached. The title-deeds of more than sixty thousand estates impose this charge upon their owners, who are further bound to plough the ground, and, according to the precise terms of tenure, to furnish supplies of rye meal. Other instances exist where landed proprietors have to maintain, without compensation, one or more cavalry horses, and soldiers to

attend on them. This feudal relic, which even enthusiasm for military glory has robbed of all popularity, Government seems disinclined to part with. It is a nuisance; for although country gentlemen are allowed to use these horses in the saddle, there is no other service for which they may be made available, and the dragoon, who is bound to work for hire when called upon, supplies another proof of the impossibility of rendering efficient service to two masters.

Regimental officers, in accordance with the system referred to, are dissociated from their men during nine months of the year, and many of them live on farms belonging to Government, the yearly value of which constitutes the whole or principal part of their pay; but others are turned to occupations of divers kinds which a combination of circumstances makes it wise they should accept. It does sound rather odd, however, to be told that in the long vacation, as it may be called, a smart Lieutenant is assiduously discharging the duties of exciseman at some brandy distillery, doing his best to check all wicked attempts to defraud the revenue, or that another has temporarily doffed one kind of the King's uniform to put on such other kind as befits the chief of a telegraph-office or railway station.

Soldiers of each province are enrolled in the same regiment. The plan, whose excellence we have often had reason to acknowledge in connexion with our Highland, Irish, and Welsh regiments, undoubtedly increases the confidence a man should have in the man who stands beside him, and so helps to insure success. The trained soldiers are fine men, and in stature present a favourable contrast to the puny looking recruits of some other foreign States. They have an excellent opinion of their own strength and powers.

> "Pride in their port, defiance in their eye,
> Behold the lords of human things pass by!"

The feeling in favour of assisting Denmark, when Prussia and Austria were drawing new boundary lines, was general; and braves, remembering what their ancestors had achieved, appropriated ten Germans as the share of each! but prudential considerations overweighed the desire for military distinction, and perhaps it was better for national pride that the trial did not come off. Mere brute force, now-a-days, is only one of many more important elements in the decision of a battle. England has not always been an ally of Sweden, although our forces occa-

sionally, and our interests ever, have been united. In 1805 the two countries, in conjunction with Russia, formed a treaty against France; but Napoleon did all he could to break this alliance, and temporarily succeeded, the Swedes being unfriendly enough to declare war against Great Britain. This estrangement was not of long continuance, and in 1810 we re-established cordial relations and concluded a joint treaty. Since then the two nations have maintained a firm friendship, to which the continued extension of our commerce imparts each year a more enduring character. If the Crimean war had not suddenly been brought to a termination, Sweden was to have actively aided the allied army, upon a condition—so it is said—that on the successful issue of hostilities she should have restored her ancient possessions in Finland. This undoubtedly would have been a prize worth fighting for—a recovered kingdom of 120,000 square miles, and a millon of new subjects. It is certain that there never existed between the Czar and the late King cordial relations either of a political or personal kind. His subjects feared and therefore hated the Russians. In a room in the Palace of Drottningholm portraits of contemporary ruling sovereigns are exhibited, where that of the

Emperor of all the Russias is conspicuous by its absence! We have been indebted to the Swedes for aid in at least one memorable contention. When William of Orange sought to vindicate the freedom of Ireland and the rights of the Protestant religion, a Swedish regiment did good service at the battle of the Boyne.

Volunteer corps were organized a few years ago upon the same principle as our own, and no diminution of ardour is apparent. Forty thousand men are fired with the ambition of being the first riflemen in the world. During last autumn a monster gathering was held at Horsens, on the eastern coast of Jutland, under the command of the gallant and able editor of the popular *Aftonbladet.* The sister kingdom of Norway, which numbers a like force of 10,000, sent many representatives, and between two and three thousand Danes joined in friendly rivalry. Following another estimable British example, these Scandinavian warriors wound up the meeting by a grand banquet, at which their amateur General presided. The accomplishments of his soldiers, their formidable solidity, their accurate shooting, their perfect discipline, were eloquently discoursed upon, and the chivalrous aspirations of

three kindred nations, as they vowed eternal brotherhood, raised unwonted enthusiasm.

The cost of the European military system provokes, fairly enough, the criticisms of peace economists, and Sweden cannot hope to escape; but there is another charge of extravagance within the category of their complaints, from which she is justly entitled to be excluded. The Kings and Kaisers of Europe are said to spend eight millions sterling of their subjects' money yearly. The Czar heads this list with a royal income of nearly two millions; and while the musical ruler of Bavaria receives 250,000*l.*, the King and royal family of Norway and Sweden, representing a territory five times the extent, and claiming the loyalty of a million and a half more people, are content with the modest stipend of 52,000*l.*

CHAPTER VIII.

UNIVERSITIES—MEN OF SCIENCE AND LETTERS—ROYAL AND OTHER ACADEMIES—LAW AND JUSTICE.

THE University of Upsala, founded in 1477, has conferred many advantages. It is surrounded by consecrated ground, so to speak, replete with associations of mediæval and other interest.

In the neighbourhood was the Temple of Upsala, in circumference not less than nine hundred ells, glittering on all sides with gold. It has been named the Teutonic Delphi, as famous for its oracles as its sacrifices. Here were seated those diviners of both sexes, having Runes at their command, which insured success on the battle-field; resisted the influence of poison; removed the infirmities of the body, and crowned with plenty the labours of the husbandman. Nature worship then prevailed, and was succeeded by a my-

thology in which Odin held the chief authority. In the temple was a figure of the god with sword in hand, supported on either side by those of Thor his son, and Freyja his daughter, a hermaphrodite, whose numerous emblems denoted productiveness. The blood of offerings presented to them was sprinkled with a bloody twig on the altar, the images, and the people. Over fires placed along the whole length of the nave the flesh was boiled down in caldrons, round which the worshippers sat and drank cups of mead in honour of the leading deities, and departed friends were blessed in succession by the presiding grandee; and as each took the cup, some prayer was offered up, or vow made, until, as frequently happened, the feast losing all semblance of devotion, resolved into a scene of riot and drunkenness.

This temple of Upsala was exceptionally distinguished by a custom, common, though on great occasions only, in other temples belonging to Teutonic races, of offering human sacrifices in the ninth month of each year, as well as in every ninth year. The occasion was one of much pomp and ceremony, at which the presence of the King was rarely dispensed with. The comfort of royalty was not always consulted, for in one instance the King of Wermeland

was selected as the victim, and burned in honour of Odin, a greater chief, to propitiate him in a season of national calamity.* In close vicinity are three remarkable tumuli,† which Mr. Laing considers to be natural deposits, shaped by art into their present form, but popular tradition has it that they are the carefully prepared graves, and contain the ashes, of the principal deities belonging to the Swedish mythology. It was from the so-called tomb of Odin that Gustavus Wasa addressed his assembled subjects, urged their adoption of the Protestant faith; and where, when his counsels were received with doubtful acquiescence, he put aside his robes of office, and called upon them to make choice of another King.

Sweden is chiefly indebted for the subversion of paganism to Waldemar I. of Denmark, while some of her earliest bishops, who most actively assisted in the propagation of the truths of Christianity, were Englishmen deeply impressed with the best kind of missionary enterprise. Romanism, in its turn, gave way to Lutheranism, but it left some imperishable monuments. Its clergy have the high distinction of

* "Apostles of Mediæval Europe."

† Laing's "Observations in Sweden."

founding the University, although at their dispersion arrangements for its endowment were incomplete, and a second temple—the present Cathedral Church, now the greatest ornament of the town—less gorgeous within, but one of the finest gothic buildings in Northern Europe, occupying two hundred years in its construction, was erected through the same influence.

Upsala has a much earlier history than Stockholm, and was long regarded as the capital. It was the seat of the court, and the kings were crowned there. Once indeed there were "Kings of Upsala," who receive frequent historic notice. Before the monarchy became hereditary, and for four centuries prior to 1420, the people met at the "Morna Stones," near Upsala, and made choice of the man who was to rule over them. During the whole authenticated chronicles of the country, therefore, Upsala has been a place of prominent consideration. Some of its archbishops have been more distinguished than its sovereigns, and all have not earned the reputation of being *mild* prelates. We find that twenty years prior to the birth of the university, the then head of the Church buckled on his armour, gave battle to, and defeated no less an antagonist than Charles Knutson (by whom the in-

dependence of Sweden had been secured), and again united the three Scandinavian races. Their versatility was greater then than belongs to the degenerate brood of clergy now-a-days, and those of Sweden and Denmark were singularly gifted. To take another example, Axel, archbishop of Denmark, the founder of Copenhagen, in the 12th century is said to have been renowned as "clergyman, statesman, general, and navigator!"—combinations of genius sufficient to excite the jealousies of our public men, and after which they will have to sigh in vain. We have no instance to bring into competition with this Danish prelate. The Duke of Wellington fought our battles and expounded and improved our laws; Earl Russell has connected his name with many of the greatest political measures of the century, and of him Sydney Smith facetiously observed that such was his self-reliance, he would be ready on an emergency to command the Channel fleet; but the Duke would have made an indifferent appearance in the pulpit, and Lord Russell would not have been an efficient leader of a forlorn hope!

The fulness of the curriculum and the modest charges are prominent features in the university system. The students average about twelve hundred,

and besides assistants there are from thirty to forty professors. Students come from all parts of the country, and are lodged and boarded with the permanent residents in the town. It is computed that the value of fifty pounds will cover all sessional fees and expense of living. In this, as in some other respects, Upsala bears a close resemblance to the system in more than one of our Scotch universities. The town people find the students their best customers; among them an amiable amalgamation exists, whose cordiality is never disturbed even by a frolicsome *émeute*. The Upsala students have been famous from time immemorial for their vocal accomplishments. Music is the charm of the town. Youthful philosophers are diligent in its practice, and every evening some of those fine old melodies with which we have become familiar are sung by them in the Cathedral Square. No bustling burgomaster or grave professors attend the arrival of strangers, and serenades, admirably executed by a hundred enthusiastic student voices, convey in far pleasanter fashion hearty welcomes. This musical talent has often been usefully turned to account. A recent occasion of the sort took place during the unequal contest 'twixt the gallant Danes and the legions of Prussia

and Austria. All the fresh sympathies of the students were enlisted on the side of a persecuted nationality, and several concerts which they gave in Stockholm produced large remittances in aid of their wounded neighbours. This was not the only evidence of public sympathy. If the Danes used to talk of "Swedish-French fickleness," the term had become inappropriate—old feuds and former rivalries were forgotten in the oppression of a common race, and although husbands were debarred by state policy from rendering active military assistance, wives, at an early juncture, were busy with amiable preparations to alleviate sufferings that were sure to come, while the voice of a whole people would have backed an appeal to arms.

The university of Lund, though less known to fame, and younger by two hundred years than its sister Upsala, has likewise done good service. Its students, whose views are largely directed to the Church, average six hundred, and the terms for teaching and living are upon the same moderate scale. The town itself (said to have been an important centre in Pagan times, with 80,000 inhabitants,) has a small fixed population, and is without any of those peculiar features which make Upsala so

interesting. The greatest of the professors belonging to Lund was probably Puffendorf, a German by birth, but deeply indebted to the Court of Sweden for protection and preferment. He filled the chair of "Nature and Mineralogy," and, as all are aware, his writings, which have been translated into numerous languages, have gained for him lasting renown as an expounder of natural law, a publicist, and historian.

Between them the libraries of Upsala and Lund contain 150,000 volumes, one of the fruits of the Reformation. During the Roman Catholic period collections of books were not preserved in a few places only, but distributed among the numerous monasteries and other conventual establishments then existing. At Upsala, of popular collections, the Bibles excite the greatest interest, the most notable being one which belonged in succession to Luther and Melancthon, having autograph annotations by each. The manuscripts number about 7000. The chief treasure of this kind is the well known "Codex Argenteus," bound in silver, and written on red parchment in gold and silver letters. It is a translation of the Evangelists into the Gothic tongue, supposed to have been done 1300 or 1400 years ago, by Ulphila, a bishop of the Goths in Thracia.

Among many others, of date comparatively recent, are manuscripts by Tegner, Linnæus, and Swedenborg. As a mere curiosity, the first book ever printed in Sweden claims attention. It is dated in 1483, and intituled "Dialogus Creaturarum Moralizatus."

Science has made astonishing progress under great difficulties. Their geographical situation isolated the Scandinavian kingdoms. Commerce was limited, and communication with other nations therefore restricted. Men of learning missed many opportunities by which other *savants* profited, of personal intercourse and interchange of opinions. Vast numbers of people concluded the country to be a region of endless forests and perpetual snow, whose acquaintance was to be avoided; but in spite of powerful drawbacks the researches of science have been often conducted with brilliant success, and some Swedish names long associated with it promise to be immortal. Former isolation has been removed, and Swedes are inexcusable if they fail to profit by the change. All the capitals of Europe are now, in point of time, near their own. Thanks to steam, it has nearly annihilated space, or at least vastly reduced its dimensions. In another chapter reference is made to the skill and enterprise exhibited in con-

nexion with great national works. Most of the men who planned them, or superintended their execution, were educated at the universities. Science points to triumphs in the construction of canals, steamships, and railroads, as well as the practical achievements of telegraphy. These successes have opened the minds of many men, and are destined to make their influence be universally felt in Sweden. Some are in their infancy, and unappreciated by thousands still ignorant of their meaning and their power; but practical science is never content till it has convinced the meanest as well as most stubborn capacity, and forced upon the world its general application.

The fame of the professors of Upsala is chiefly concentrated in the natural sciences, to which that of the world-renowned Linnæus in the first instance contributed. He was surrounded by a crowd of pupils, many of whom became famous as travellers as well as botanists. Solander accompanied Captain Cook in his voyage round the world. Hasselquist investigated the natural history of Palestine, and brought back a noble collection of plants, minerals, fishes, reptiles, and insects. His "Iter Palestinum" has been translated into most

European languages. Swartz travelled in America and the West Indies, and added 50 genera and 850 species to the list of flowering plants. Wahlenberg, afterwards a professor, not only penetrated into the remotest parts of the Cimbrian peninsula, but visited Bohemia and Hungary, examined the Carpathian mountains and travelled over Switzerland, leaving ample evidence of his genius. Obeck, pursuing similar investigations, traversed many portions of the East Indies and China, an undertaking at that time of no common kind. Neither the subject nor its pursuit has ever wanted the ablest representatives, and at the present day Professor Fries is the fitting successor of Linnæus in the chair which he adorned.

Connected with chemistry, the world has been taught to look to the north for some of its great lights. Professor Bergmann laid the foundation of the science of crystallography, and Berzelius is an acknowledged luminary in his own department scarcely less lustrous than Linnæus. The Swedes like to recall remembrances of their great men, and a colossal statue has been raised to the memory of this illustrious philosopher in the city where his investigations were chiefly carried on.

The muses have had many worshippers, but

posthumous fame has fallen to the lot of few. Tegner, who was a professor in Lund, is amongst the best remembered. Some of his poems have been set to music, and are constantly sung in private circles. Longfellow has supplied a powerful evidence of his estimate in having published an English translation of them. Standberg, a living poet, has translated into Swedish several of Lord Byron's works, and Thomander, the Bishop of Lund, a celebrated pulpit orator, conferred on his countrymen the boon of reading in their own language the dramatic writings of William Shakespeare. But the poet of all others who most retains the affections of the nation is Bellman, called promiscuously the Swedish Burns, Pindar, and Anacreon. In the popular resort of the Deer Park at Stockholm his bust finds a suitable place to remind of his many improvisations, which never weary. Collecting his friends about his death-bed he exclaimed, "Let me die as I have lived, in music!" and then addressed them in a different tune and metre corresponding to the character of each.

Another professor has established a reputation that is not merely local. Fryxell's writings as an historian have deservedly gained great applause, from their truthfulness of narrative as well as the pleasing

style in which they are communicated. Their general acceptability receives the strongest support in their having been translated into nearly every European language. Like more than one of our own literary magnates, the professor excels in poetry as in prose. The fine national melodies of his "Lass of Wermland" have proved very attractive, and his countrymen pay him that homage which high intellect, usefully directed, is well entitled to claim.

Celsius and Wargentin have a distinguished reputation as astronomers, and the former has turned his learning to good practical account by the invention of a thermometer bearing his name, which is in universal use not only in the Scandinavian peninsula but throughout France.

Medical science owes much to Professor Retzius, whose discoveries in anatomy have given him a European fame.

John Ericsson has changed his nationality, and become an influential citizen of the great transatlantic Republic, but he was born a Swede, served for some years as an officer of Engineers, and made England his home for several more. He has justly established a high position in mechanics; steam navigation is indebted to him for the screw propeller, and his efforts to

substitute heated air for steam as a motive power have added to his reputation. During the civil war in America he was a violent partisan. His fulminations against Great Britain were especially terrible, and he threatened, many a time, to blow our navy out of the water!

The Swedes long ago discovered the benefits and influences to be derived from associated bodies. Science, literature, and the fine arts, all have been thus promoted. The most select, if not the most important, is the "Royal Swedish Academy." Gustaf III. solemnly inaugurated it in 1786, and its earliest statutes are still in operation. They contemplate the improvement of literature and language, and the memory of the great departed. Let the Academy tell its object in majestic words of its own:—"To cultivate and strengthen the Swedish language, to spread abroad and extol what is great and worth commemorating, and to sing the praises of illustrious men who ruled, or served, or saved their fatherland, by these means glorifying Sweden and Swedish language." And again, "to promote the purity, strength, and grandeur of the Swedish language both in science and poetry, as well as oratory, and all the branches they embrace, but more especially the one that serves to

proclaim the heavenly truths." The president and vice-president go out of office every six months, and a permanent and paid secretary, resident in Stockholm, directs affairs. The members do not exceed eighteen, and embrace literary men of distinction. Gold medals are annually distributed for the best contributions to oratory and poetry. On the first occasion the highest honours were carried off by its royal patron, for an oration on the life and character of Tortenshar, one of the most enterprising and successful Swedish generals in the Thirty Years' War. Since then the kings and princes of the earth have ceased to enter the arena. The Diet acknowledges the services of the Society by an annual vote of 12,000 rix-dollars, whose income is considerably enhanced by the profits of the "Post and Home Newspaper" (*Post och Inrikes Tedningen*), which is published under its auspices.

"The Society of Science" has an earlier history as well as more extensive aims. It was founded in 1739, since which time its proportions and prosperity have gone on increasing. The selection of the first president is supposed to have been a happy omen. It seldom happens that a man is a prophet in his own country, but the members of this society testified to general appreciation,

and honoured themselves, by unanimously appointing to the office their great compatriot Linnæus. The Academy comprises 175 members, of whom 75 are foreigners. The departments into which it divides itself are mathematics (pure and mixed), practical mechanics, natural philosophy, chemistry, geology and mineralogy, botany and zoology, medical science, technical, economical, and statistical sciences, but the number of foreign members in each department is precise, and none are admitted into the last section. The society publishes an annual account of its transactions. The progress and discoveries of science are communicated in a series of original papers. When a distinguished member is removed by death, a medal is struck off to commemorate his worthiness. The direction of the very valuable museum of natural history is with this Society. Let us hope that almanacks and calendars are valuable property, inasmuch as the "Academy of Science" benefits, according to ancient right, by the profits which these popular miscellanies produce.

"The Academy of Belles-Lettres, History, and Antiquity," nominally dating from 1753, had a hard struggle for existence until, in 1786, renewed efforts were made, and Gustavus III. gave royal

sanction to its name and validity to the rules on which it is conducted. The members—limited to fifty—consist of fourteen honorary, twenty working, and sixteen foreign. The subjects specially examined and prosecuted are "history, archæology, numismatics, inscriptions and symbols, classical literature and the study of ancient and modern languages." In connexion with the department of "antiquities," the *Riksdag* votes an allowance for an officer of the Society, whose work bears a resemblance to that of secretaries of antiquarian clubs among ourselves, except that, as "remains" are found in greater numbers, his official vitality promises to be more enduring. Like those worthy gentlemen, he has a happy time of it. He selects enjoyable seasons for his excursions, receives handsome allowances for board and lodging, and finds both provided under the hospitable roofs of Swedish squires!

"The Academy of Arts" can boast of the greatest antiquity. A medal struck in 1735 records the date of its formation, although originally it was little more than a drawing-school, where French painters and sculptors, attracted to the Court of Sweden, supplied the chief instruction. Count Tessin was its great supporter; but symptoms of breaking

up became apparent. Owing to the poverty of its exchequer professors received no salaries, and professional men dislike being treated as amateurs. All that the Count's eloquence was good for amounted to a grant annually from the Riksdag of 500 dollars (about 27*l.* 10*s.*), and Frenchmen, discovering that Sweden did not intend to enrich them, retraced their steps to "la belle France." For many years no general attention was directed to the subjects the society sought to promote, and the present century had made some advance ere a change occurred. Sweden in that respect only resembled Great Britain, for sixty years ago these branches of art were rarely talked about in our ordinary social circles; but the government now lends powerful assistance. Nearly 2000*l.* yearly is voted for salaries, between 300*l.* and 400*l.* to students for travelling stipends, and a further sum is set aside for the purchase of deserving productions by native artists. Painting, sculpture, architecture, are to be "watched, carefully guided, and their progress forwarded and developed," so that a more "general taste and knowledge of these arts may be spread abroad in the country;" and the Academy is to "superintend and take care of the public education in these branches,

so that not only skilful artists may be educated, but also artistic skill be extended to the works of industry on which art has an ennobling influence."* The Academy holds an annual festival on the 21st of March, and every third year public exhibitions of works of art take place under its guidance and authority. Highly beneficial results have followed. Genius has profited by the lessons of experience, interesting works been produced which have stimulated the national tastes for art, and vile daubs been replaced in thousands of private dwellings by pleasing representations which supply fitting subjects for further emulation. As this growth of feeling advances, we shall expect to find provision made for the extension of membership. At present the members of the Academy are limited to forty ordinary and ten honorary.

"The Academy of Music" has a special interest. As long ago as 1771, it first declared its aim to be "to embrace music in its fulness, both as an art and a science." Gustaf III. is likewise connected with the inauguration of the Academy. Besides encouraging the development of musical abilities, it takes under its

* Declared purposes of Society.

wings all desirous of professional employment, whose admission is dependent upon satisfactory previous examination. The position it occupies, and the importance attached to the successful prosecution of the science, are evidenced by the fact that 30,000 rix-dollars are voted from the public purse annually for its purposes. Foreigners may be received within the pale of the Academy. Its ordinary members number one hundred. Ladies have the privilege of admission, under restrictions. When Swedes sanctioned a rule which limited the number of female members to fifteen, and refused to confer upon them the right of voting, they abandoned for that day their proverbial gallantry!

There is an old French saying, that if you would not have your happiness and health impaired, and your substance dissipated, lawsuits must be avoided. "Fuyez les procès sur toutes choses—la conscience s'y intéresse, la santé s'y altère, les biens s'y dissipent!" The Swedes don't object to litigation, and although Frenchmen may be right after their own experience, the worry of the law, and its uncertainties and disappointments, are without injurious effects on the more phlegmatic temperament of the Northman. Cheap law is an evil thing, and that is

the kind they are familiar with. The progress of suits is extremely slow, not so much from dilatory administration, as from the right of appeal to successive tribunals. Delays of this sort favour litigation, and have a tendency to defeat the ends of justice. A frivolous defence means procrastination, which needy debtors are too willing to interpose. The country is divided into twenty-four provinces, subdivided into bailiwicks, hundreds, and parishes. The laws were anciently as various as the provinces were numerous, each having statutes and customs peculiar to itself, enacted as occasion required by the "Laghman" or governor of the province, who was invested with great authority. It was not until the beneficent reign of Wasa, that one body of laws was compiled for the whole kingdom. In former days the King was the personal dispenser of justice. He sat on the judgment seat, and heard and decided after the manner of Solomon. It was said of Wasa that "his Majesty is observed always to make a short prayer at first, before sitting down."

Governors of provinces, who in some respects resemble lord-lieutenants of counties, are not merely honorary officers. The state salaries them—they are bound to personal residence within the province, and

have to discharge important judicial duties. The governor reviews the decisions of inferior judges, and his own are subject to the review of the King. The sovereign has long ceased to undertake personal investigation, but the theory of the law remains, and "the king" still constitutes the court of last resort. An old writer quaintly describes the operation of rules which are applicable now. "In matters of judicature each respective territory has its viscount; every province its lansman or consul, and every town its layman and consul, and there lieth an appeal from the consul to the layman, and from the layman to the viscount, and from him to the King, in whose only power it is absolutely to determine the matter."* It would be unpardonable, as a rule, to impute corruption to those magistrates who administer the law in courts of inferior resort, and yet the system which prevails has a tendency, in its very nature, if not to make them servile, to deprive their proceedings of that claim to strict impartiality which purifies the sources of justice. The men who hold these judicial offices have generally been engaged — prior to assuming them — in the sort

* Clark's "Description of the World." 1669.

of duties with which we associate "notaires" in France and other parts of the Continent; and although a seat on the bench necessarily terminates one portion of their former work, they are permitted to continue other portions, and to increase by such means their annual income. A judge of this class frequently act as an agent in the sale or purchase of property; is the receiver on estates; and takes charge of the realization and distribution of executory effects. These things, it is true, may be attended to without necessarily leading to judicial discussion, but remotely the independence of the magistrate must be affected. The clients of the judge, the men through whose employment he is benefiting, may have disputes, arising elsewhere, which require the interposition of a court, and he is called upon to hear and determine them. It is scarcely possible to imagine that he can do so without a certain amount of sympathy or prejudice; to say the least, the difficulty must be great, and if the decision—no matter how well and logically put—favours his friends, there is sure to be an outcry, especially among litigants of a humble class, that the scales of justice have been unfairly weighted. All occasion ought undoubtedly to be removed, for there is nothing which more

conduces to the internal contentment of a nation, than a conviction of the perfect impartiality of the judgment-seat. In England we might tolerate a dull judge, while a servile one, however brilliant his powers, would be driven from office. By increasing judicial salaries, and limiting the holders to employments purely judicial, the character of the bench would be raised, and decisions be received with increased respect.

Except in political cases, and in others arising from written libel, "trial by jury" is unpractised. Every province or district elects, for a term, twelve men, usually belonging to the class of peasant proprietors, who constitute a sort of council, with whom the judge confers, but their position is an anomalous one. They rarely differ from the conclusions of the judge, and unless such difference is unanimous, he pursues his own view of the case. This sort of thing is not any help to, but an incumbrance on the administration of justice, and as its wisdom is unintelligible, law reformers might profitably suggest some useful substitute.

During the present century extensive reforms have been introduced into the department of criminal jurisprudence, and many of its bloody provisions been

removed. In Great Britain, Parliament too long permitted the statute book to be loaded with the penalty of death for upwards of 200 offences, and the Code of Sweden was not more humane. A thief was held in great abhorrence, and condemned to be boiled in burning tar. When a man left his wife to live with another woman, there were no benevolent judges to pronounce decrees *nisi*,* and so terminate the scandal, but the written law passed sentence on both offenders. The man was beheaded, and the woman stoned to death. The regicide of Gustavus III. was dreadfully scourged with whips of iron thongs, through three successive days. His right hand was cut off, then his head, and his body impaled. Capital punishment is now limited to cases of murder, which are of rare occurrence. The axe is the instrument of death. But although sentence may have been passed on the clearest evidence, an old rule provided, still scrupulously re-

* We do not hear so much as at home of "brutal husbands," but they are not singular. Mr. Marryat quotes the case of one Nils Jordan, who, for "shoving his wife's teeth down her throat," was sentenced to receive "39 blows, or to be ducked with water, and fed on dry bread till penitent."

Our police magistrates might profit by this decision, and more vigorously resent the cruel treatment of women.

spected, that it should not be enforced until full confession had been made. The natural aversion from death is so strong, that one might expect this confession of guilt to be indefinitely withheld; such, however, is not found to be the case. The horrors arising from protracted solitary confinement, and possibly the active remorse which priestly exhortations produce, seldom fail. The prisoner makes his mind up to tell all, and admits the justice of the decree. Before it receives effect, the King, according to immemorial custom, visits the criminal and tries to soothe his condition. There is a touching significance about an interview, at which from the lips of his sovereign on earth, the dying man listens to words of comfort, ere he passes into the presence of the King of kings.*

* In Mr. Malcolm Laing's book on Sweden, written some thirty years ago, he refers to the extraordinary amount of crime, and his figures undoubtedly present an alarming view. The relative number of offences has sensibly diminished since then, and it is to be observed that they are chiefly of a petty description. Mr. Laing says, that the total population being 2,983,144, the numbers of prosecutions were 26,275, of whom no fewer than 21,262 were convicted; therefore one in every 114 had been accused, and one in 140 convicted of some criminal offence. In London at the same period the population was about two millions, and the number of committals was 3547, or one in every 540.

CHAPTER IX.

A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT—ROYALTY *EN GRAND TENUE*, AND *EN DÉSHABILLE.*

N the days of Gustavus Wasa, personal government existed in almost patriarchal fashion. The sovereign's authority was absolute, but he directed it for good. Since his reign many changes have occurred, and if other rulers, as Gustavus Adolphus and Charles XII., held despotic sway by the power of will and great intellect, without popular discontent, the same cannot be said of several intermediate sovereigns, or of some who succeeded them. The reign of the weak Adolphus Frederic exhibited a state of things which was sure to grow intolerable. There remained the form of personal government, but the royal authority had been delegated to an oligarchy, and disturbing factions rent the kingdom in twain. The

"Hats" and "Caps," each strove for political ascendancy. The former were for "France and agriculture;" the latter favoured "Russia and commerce." The King's death made way for the accession of his son, Gustavus III., a man of great ability, but capricious and insincere, who soon weakened the influence of aristocracies, helped to destroy the foolish contentions of the "Hats" and "Caps," and at the same time enlarged the basis of personal government. At a later period, the Diet forced from him concessions, without removing a growing feeling of discontent, and at length he fell by the cowardly hand of an assassin. His vain and half lunatic successor was driven to an enforced abdication, and the last of the "Wasa" dynasty succeeded to the throne upon conditions which secured for the nation the blessings of constitutional government.

The air of Sweden, therefore, may be breathed by freemen without contamination, and by rational men without losing their senses. If it is not a wealthy country, it possesses one essential, without which it would be impossible to grow rich—it has liberty. "Liberty," said Sir James Mackintosh, "the parent of commerce, the parent of wealth, the parent of knowledge, the parent of every virtue!" The sovereign

has ceased to appropriate an undue share of personal government, and the fountain of power is with the members of chambers popularly elected. A council of ministers, who are charged with administrative duties, is appointed by the King, over which he presides. The votes of the Diet, confirmed by the Sovereign, make legislation complete.

In many essentials, the constitution has a near resemblance to that of Great Britain. Unfortunately for the happiness of civilization, it is of the sort which most nations envy and do not share. Like ours, the Chief of the State must be a Protestant; in the case of Sweden, a member of the Lutheran Church. The application of the Salic law supplies one distinction, and no Princess can be Queen in her own right.

A free press, which occasionally somewhat abuses its freedom without diminishing its popularity, is highly prized. The vicissitudes it has survived, its struggles and reverses—enlargements and restrictions—and for a time total suspension, probably enhance the general esteem with which it is regarded. The year 1774 first hailed the institution; in 1780 limitations were imposed on its original conditions. The Censorship of 1798 wholly suppressed it, and

until the political revolution of 1809, the voice of the nation had no legitimate means of making itself heard. Since that time the object of its mission has been well served. Licentiousness has never been its general character, and it has manfully exposed whatever measures have threatened to disturb the tranquillity of the commonwealth. The most popular Newspaper is the *Aftonbladet*, whose circulation is so extensive that a Swedish Bishop, probably holding views at variance with its politics, and jealous of the influence it has obtained, recently termed it "the Bible of the peasants." Among several others published in Stockholm, is a small print, which the Swedes tell you is as good as the *London Charivari*. By all accounts this claim to favourable comparison is unfounded. Its gaiety does not always provoke laughter; caricatures lose their privileges when they condescend to ill-natured personalities, and the mirthful harmlessness of the mocking song is disfigured by the lying tongue of slander. *Our "Punch"* leaves no poisoned sting. *Theirs* makes a festering sore. Every Swede is a politician, a circumstance easily to be accounted for, as until a couple of years ago, any man who was not a pauper might aspire to the dignity of becoming a Member of

Parliament.* A house of "Nobles," to the number of several hundreds; a house of "Peasants," called Cincinnatus-like from the plough; a house of "Priests," whose holier duties were subservient to the affairs of state; a house of "Burghers," with some secret longings for a "pure democracy," made their several legislative contributions. This ponderous machinery, unfitted for the present age and practice, has been disused, and now two elective bodies, one chosen from the nobility, and the other from the citizens at large, on the broadest basis of representation, frame laws for their country. More than one provision of the recent Swedish Reform measure might be adopted with approbation by our senators. There are no "Hustings," and therefore no invitations to the riotously disposed to revel in every variety of mischief. The polling books are quietly examined, and the results quietly ascertained. An election is about the slowest thing imaginable, although there is no indifference as to the issue. Unlike what an American has recently very graphically described as the state of things in England, on declarations of the poll, there is no

* Now, a property qualification—very inconsiderable—is required.

deafening confusion of roar, howl, screech, yell, cat-calls, dog whistles, mingled with rotten eggs, oranges, raw potatoes, and other missiles; but a formal announcement finds its way to the newspapers, and gives the number of votes for each candidate. Government defrays the whole cost of elections, and any expenditure of money by parliamentary candidates is strictly forbidden under heavy penalties. Votes are taken by ballot. We are in the habit of saying that a Government is always most efficient where it is fronted by a strong opposition; but in the Swedish Chambers the opposition is watchful, rather than numerically powerful. There are few "scenes"—speeches are usually sedate, and a decorous formality is observed. None of the brutality which occasionally disgraces an American Congress has ever been heard of, though one should have to wait in vain for anything to compare with French wit and vivacity; and if there are few epigrammatic sentences to be remembered, debates are not disfigured by absurd eccentricities of the sort to which each session introduces us in our Houses of Parliament.

When, during the revolutionary era of 1848, rebellion against constituted authority was a Con-

tinental rule, and dynasties of a thousand years ceased in a few hours to exist, the son of a soldier of fortune, in the army of the first French Empire, remained firmly seated on his throne, and now Charles XV. receives a homage as loyal, and his subjects entertain for him an attachment as deeply rooted, as if he could count descent from the great Gustavus. It is not mere lip-service that is paid, when, to the same national air as our own, they sing

"God save the king!"

The Swedes have always been accustomed to kingly authority. True, it has occasionally happened that they have only had a share of a king, as when the fate of war subjected them to the yoke of Norway and of Denmark, and a cruel yokedom that proved to be; but of no other form of government do we possess authentic records. One writer remarks, that it "is a monarchy, one of the ancientest in the northern parts of the world, if their report be true who boast the immediate succession from above one hundred kings, and that the first among them was the son of Japhet, one of the sons of Noah!" To believe in dreams of such descent, is only a harmless indulgence which may be gratified without danger.

At rare intervals, the sovereign meets his subjects

in high state. Belonging to the palace—a noble building of Italian architecture in the form of a regular quadrangle, flanked on the east and west sides by parallel wings—is a fine hall splendidly decorated, the fitting place of assembly. It has survived all the changes of centuries. Here the regal representatives of despotic monarchies and constitutional governments have spoken to their people words of stirring interest—Wasa and Bernadotte, Gustavus Adolphus and Oscar, Charles XII. and Charles XV. In this hall the present King opens and dissolves the parliament, under circumstances that recall descriptions of mediæval pageantry. The whole court and influence of Stockholm are eager to repair to a scene that upholds the pride of national independence, and helps the growth of feelings, which detesting the theories of agglomeration, gain in intensity in proportion to the narrow sphere within which they are concentrated. On a dais at the further end from the entrance, and in front of a lofty canopy, studded with gold, stands the silver throne. It is fitly guarded on either side by statues in marble of Gustavus Adolphus and Bernadotte. Prince Oscar, the heir presumptive, is seated on the right hand, and on the left, the

Queen, the princess royal, the queen-mother, and the princes and princesses of the blood, take their accustomed places. In a gallery gorgeously draped with blue cloth, are ranged the diplomatic corps in coats of many colours. The representatives of the great powers of Europe, the minister of the United States, the ministers of Denmark, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Belgium, are all of them present. "The rights of women," conceded in this instance by acclamation, have secured prominent places for their wives and daughters. The members of the House of Nobles, in flowing ermine, covering uniforms of blue and gold, and those of the other chambers* in more sombre raiment (a few of the peasants wearing their homely sheepskin) occupy seats on raised benches, and the space remaining unappropriated, save what suffices for the retinue of the King, is crowded chiefly by fair citizens in wonderful toilettes, who lend increased attractions to a spectacle whose gorgeousness is only rarely surpassed. Presently the sound of artillery announces the approach of royalty;

"All the battlements their ordnance fire;"

conversation becomes hushed, and every eye is eager

* This was recently, when there were four Chambers.

with expectation. Advancing by a side door near the throne come the royal bodyguard two abreast, conspicuous by their powerful frames and lofty stature, attired in the costume of the time of Charles XII., which the present King has revived. Pages and other court officials in gaudy vestments quickly follow, and heralds having gold-bespangled black velvet tunics reaching to their knees, and black velvet caps with towering ostrich feathers, walk immediately before the King. As his Majesty enters, the assembly rises *en masse*. He wears a crown glittering with precious stones; on his breast is the order of the Seraphin, and with his right hand he grasps a golden sceptre. The royal speech is nominally the business of the day, and the King, in tones which proclaim the excellent condition of the royal lungs, proceeds to address his assembled nobles, clergy, peasants, and burghers, as

"Men of Sweden, Goths and Vandals."*

He touches upon recent legislative enactments, notices others in contemplation, the amiable relations of his government with foreign courts, the flourishing state

* Although there is but one government of Norway and Sweden, there are separate parliaments.

of the revenue, and concludes by warm congratulations on the internal tranquillity and contentment that everywhere prevail. The court grandees make obeisance and disappear; the Land Marshal, President of the Upper House, the Archbishop of Upsal, Chief of the Clergy, the Speakers of the Chambers of Peasants and Citizens, advance and kiss the King's hand, and as each noble passes before the throne, he bows himself to the ground with a reverence and *empressement* so profound, that one waits for the utterance,—

"O king, live for ever!"

Then the King, looking immensely relieved at the conclusion of a ceremonial which duty imposes, retires from the presence of his people, followed by a retinue that is at least splendid, if it be not also somewhat grotesque.*

There is another occasion, occurring on the 1st of January every year, when the King meets his loving subjects. The merchant citizens of Stockholm give a ball then, to which they invite his Majesty and the Queen, and all the members of the royal family. The ladies are dressed in black, formerly the Court colour,

* See also Miss Howitt's "Year in Sweden with Frederica Bremer."

and husbands and brothers deport themselves as become the hosts of their liege lord. The aristocratic and democratic elements blend delightfully. The Countess polkas with a royal purveyor, and the daughter of the Minister of Foreign Affairs is charmingly gracious to some banker's clerk. Civic beauty is unanimously applauded. The King and Queen move through the crowded salons, and talk familiarly to everybody. Royal Highnesses imitate their example—the Court circle follows suit. In an hour or two royalty takes its departure, but not before the pleasantest impressions have been made. There are no striking sentences to be remembered, but then the utterances are the King's and Queen's, addressed to individuals, and these help to strengthen loyal feelings. Friends and acquaintances are eagerly informed of them, and every little speech has a wide circulation of its own. All this presents royalty in an amiable light, and has its peculiar influence. It is, therefore, not absurd to say, that the new year's ball is a useful institution, and that it increases the mutual attachment of the King and his people.

By immemorial custom, on the first of May, the King and his ducal brothers, all in full uniform, and their suite, form a grand cavalcade from the palace to

the Deer Park in the suburbs. The Queen and her ladies drive in state carriages. Diplomats, Nobles, Burghers, and all Stockholm, by different modes of locomotion, are attracted to the same rendezvous. Men have ventured to remove *one* of their two winter overcoats, but not their goloshes, and the toilettes of ladies have put on quite a gay appearance, for is it not the first day of summer? albeit the clerk of the weather has been strangely disobliging. The coldest north wind is blowing, and heavy showers of sleet and snow descend at brief intervals, and commit irreparable havoc among countless yards of silk and satin. There is nothing very striking about this periodical cavalcade, but those who have seen it scores of times before, are not less eager now, and abandonment would in their eyes be an unpardonable neglect of some social duty. No religious procession in a Roman Catholic country could be less imposing in its appearance, present fewer varieties year by year, or command more universal interest! The royal party ride round the Park and home again. Royalty sups sumptuously, and thousands, hungry and shivering, throng the hundred restaurants that offer those substantial attractions which the Swedes love so well.

An occasion recently took place in the capital which drew forth the most cordial and enthusiastic feelings, and imposed upon royalty the duty of wearing its grandest apparel. The nuptial ceremony that was to unite Frederick, Crown Prince of Denmark, to Louisa, Princess Royal of Sweden, was hailed with universal approbation, for inclination and reason had been equally consulted. Every circumstance seemed auspicious, and although, as the leading journal of the world announced, nations in our days do not marry nor are given in marriage, it was a dynastic arrangement whose undoubted tendency was to rivet the links forged by nature between the various branches of the great Scandinavian family. It brings into close connexion the governing princes of the peninsula, and in one sense secures a Scandinavian unity without disturbing previous political settlements, and thence raising questions which would have been sure to produce partisanship of a dangerous character.

If any feelings of ancient rivalry and hostile intent still survived, this marriage has buried them for ever in forgetfulness, and in bringing two loving hearts together, has likewise united the sympathies of two kindred nations. Even among the potentates of the

earth there are few couples that can boast of such a brilliant connexion. To be the son and daughter of Kings; to have a brother a King; two sisters before whom are the destinies of England and Russia; to count kindred with the Sovereign of the ancient kingdom of the Netherlands, besides affinity, though more remote, with the Court of Prussia and minor German States, are claims which the world will never treat with levity, and many will most reverently acknowledge them. The marriage was solemnized in the Chapel Royal belonging to the Palace of Stockholm. The Provinces vied with each other in the numbers of their contributions to the capital, and steamboats and railroads poured into it five-and-twenty thousand visitors. "Happy is the bride that the sun shines on," and the day was all that superstition could desire. Swedish wealth and Swedish poverty were equally forward with demonstrations. The monitors and ironclads put on their gayest attire. Every vessel in the harbour was characteristically dressed, the meanest fishing-boat making laudable efforts. Flags hung out from the palace of the heir presumptive, and small traders exhibited the like enthusiasm of loyalty. Hardly a house was without some emblem of sympathetic

affection. The Queen of the Mälar had indeed decked herself for a joyous festival. As on all such occasions, the invited company was limited. Counsellors of State, Knights of the Seraphin, the Diplomatic Corps, and the wives and daughters of these personages, chiefly composed it. There were also present eminent members of the Riksdal, leading citizens, and Fellows of the most notable Academies. Youth and beauty lent their never failing attractions. The scene was heightened by the magnificent variety of the uniforms—their glittering orders—bright ribands and nodding plumes. Within the privileged circle many eyes were turned to one public man, whose unadorned exterior made him conspicuous. He seemed to be without a wedding garment. Had a Geneva gown enfolded his person, he might easily have been mistaken for a professional descendant of John Calvin. The great transatlantic republic condescends to describe the dress in which her servants shall appear at foreign Courts, and the Minister of the United States had therefore no alternative; but as it imposes upon their wives no restrictions of the sort, the lady by his side made ample amends for the sombre raiment of her husband, and in the costly elegance of her *toilette* and the splendour of the

jewels she wore, those proud dames who represented the royal houses of Hapsburg and Hohenzollern did not excel her. When the marriage procession began to move, the bands of the First and Second Guards played the Grand March of Thurkel Knutson. All rose simultaneously, and remained standing till the royal personages were seated. The Kings of Sweden and Denmark led the bridegroom to his place, in front of two stools covered with cloth of silver. The Queen conducted the bride to hers; on his left hand. Thrones, *vis-à-vis*, had been improvised, and the most illustrious guests supported the royal occupants on either side. The bride wore the usual simple myrtle crown, surrounded with diamonds. Her fair bridesmaids, dressed in white moire, with red camelias in their hair, some with blue and gold, others with red and white riband decorations in the respective national colours of Sweden and Denmark, and the groomsmen, stood behind the bridal pair. The Archbishop, attended by his chaplain and the Court preachers, then advanced. He was attired in the quaint episcopal robes of the middle ages, and commenced a preliminary address which dragged its weary length along for full half an hour. The marriage ceremony followed, and, according to Danish

rule, the Prince placed the wedding-ring on the third finger of the *right* hand of the Princess. He then led his wife to King Christian, who with much emotion kissed her on both cheeks, and embraced his son in like manner. The Crown Prince now led her Royal Highness to the King, from whom she received "the father's kiss," with unrestrained heartiness, and afterwards to the Queens in succession. Swedish newspapers were particular to record the form of these affectionate salutations by the royal mothers. The Queen of Denmark "kissed the bride on both cheeks." The Queen of Sweden "kissed her on the mouth." Salutes of guns from the batteries which surround the town announced to the crowds outside that their Princess Royal had become the wife of the heir to the Crown of Denmark. The procession left the chapel in the order of its arrival, and at eight o'clock the royal family and their visitors went in gala to the Summer Palace of Haga, where they supped. Report does not inform what number of glasses clinked together that evening, or how often; but under the genial presidency of "Konung Karl" and the Queen, it no doubt sped right pleasantly, and a bridal pair, who carry with them the enthusiastic wishes of

eight million hearts, must surely be destined to be happy.

In spite of this matrimonial tie, another generation is not more likely than the present to witness the union of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway under the same Crown, although it probably will see two direct descendants of the Notary of Pau seated on the throne of these ancient kingdoms.

Royalty en déshabille.—When the kings of the earth in former times sought relief from the cares of State and the formalities of Courts, they failed to find it at their country seats or even in the amusements of the chase, for there great retinues would follow, and so occasionally disguises were assumed, making recognition nearly impossible, but producing inconveniences which must have effectually dissociated from the wanderers all idea of enjoyment. James V. of Scotland supplied one instance of that sort, and Gustavus Adolphus, with more regard to personal comfort, it is true, visited, in the character of a private gentleman, a considerable portion of Germany without provoking the discovery that he was the King of Sweden.

Things have altogether changed for the better; feelings of personal loyalty are as strong as ever,

and we do not treat the representatives of royalty with deference less profound, though we encounter one on the mountain side in the garb of a Highland gillie, or surprise another in his solitude, sketching some charming scene on the banks of the stately Mälar.

Unembarrassed by Court grandeur, the King of Sweden passes some weeks every year at a pleasant old château three English miles from the capital, and borrowing its name, lives there as the Duke of Uricksdal. The society of a few familiar friends, and the attractions of his studio and library, keep *ennui* far away. Extensive grounds and a fine lake supply amusements of other kinds, and the privacy, which his subjects are too well bred to disturb, leaves nothing to be desired.

Many of our countrymen display a morbid curiosity for seeing what they call "everything" when in foreign parts. They compare their expenses on the one hand, with the number of "sights" on the other; and if the list does not happen to be of respectable length, there is an uncomfortable feeling of having been taken in—by whom, they do not say. Foreigners are amused with and laugh at us for these foibles, but we persist in them for all that. A year or two ago an

enterprising Yorkshireman found himself in Stockholm, who fully showed this peculiar obligation. At home he dealt extensively in horseflesh, and was a recognised authority. The royal mews to him was a place of primary interest. It usually contains about a hundred horses—many of them moderate enough animals—and his criticisms were somewhat depreciatory, but from *his* lips that result was to be anticipated. Had they stood in his own stable, all would have been pictures, and their various good points been discoursed upon in voluminous detail. He was told that a more select stud was collected at Uricksdal, and thither resolved to turn his steps. What if he should meet the King, and do a stroke of business! A union of business and pleasure always increases the zest of both. The dealer must have been born under the luckiest of stars, for scarcely had he entered the domain when he encountered a fine-looking man, of pleasant presence, to whom, in his best Yorkshire, he communicated the purpose of his visit. He was not handed over to the tender mercies of flunkeyism, but the stranger, who proved no other than the King himself, introduced him to the most curious examination of the castle and its contents. The dealer had opportunities of investigating many

choice specimens of art; some landscapes by the King which would have done no discredit to the easels of Nasmyth and Gainsborough; and such Majolica, Sèvres, and carved furniture as are rarely to be seen. Tradition fails to relate the impressions these objects made, although probably the Englishman considered them not. His mind was with the stable and its representatives, and his wishes were soon gratified. This time there was no attempt to depreciate, and powers of blarney were presented in all their native fascinations. One horse specially took his fancy, and he rapidly calculated the cost of transport, and its price at Barnet Fair. A Yorkshire dealer is not usually a man of retiring manners or diffident disposition, so our friend blandly proposed to the King to be a buyer, making at the same time what he called a tempting offer. The Duke of Uricksdal knew the worth of a good animal as well as his new acquaintance did, and promptly declined the bid. The Englishman should see his paces and be taught his value, and the horse was conducted to a lounging ground close at hand. No groom was deputed to put these to the test, but Charles XV. was quickly in the saddle, and exhibited the combined powers of admirable horsemanship and superior horse-

flesh. The horse could walk, trot, gallop, and jump to perfection. If the Yorkshire dealer raised his terms, royalty was not to be seduced, and that looming profit in an English market failed to become a realized fact.

There are other residences which the Court occasionally inhabits. One of them must often remind its master of the vicissitudes of Kings. For several years Eric IV. and John III. were close prisoners in Gripsholm, and the deposed Gustavus IV. had an enforced stay in it. It was there where the Prince and Princess of Wales were right royally welcomed on their visit to Stockholm a few years ago. The warm cordiality of the King and Queen must have made their guests feel almost at home, especially as the familiar historic portraits of Mary Queen of Scots, Oliver Cromwell, and George III. looked down upon them from the walls. King George might have thought there was too much wine, but the charms of our Princess, and the intelligent, frank, and manly bearing of her husband, in the midst of a Sovereign and people well disposed to England, did more to strengthen and extend amicable relations than the exchange of a hundred friendly protocols.

The King's presence is counted upon as a matter of duty whenever a fire takes place in the capital. He is not the man to shirk work, but hastens to the spot with the alacrity which characterizes some amateur members of the fire brigade at home, nor is he merely an inactive spectator. These are not moments of ceremony, and his Majesty's exertions have been known to rival those of the most willing fireman. When a fire occurred, and he was in Stockholm, his great predecessor Charles XII., mounted on his grey charger "Brand Klipparen" (fire-horse), so named by the citizens, was said to have been among the earliest arrivals, and to give the words of command. This famous steed saw a deal of brilliant service, and is amongst the few horses which receive historical mention by name. Professor Fryxell says that he attained the patriarchal age (for his species) of forty-five—thus having lived seven years more than his illustrious master. A fire in town is happily less an affair of general danger than formerly, when many, if not most, of the buildings were of wood, and it was impossible to predict the limits of a conflagration. Some years ago, by a rule which applies to the largest towns, the erection of wooden houses was forbidden within the municipal boundaries—a wholesome

regulation, for the destruction of property and the impossibility of insuring it, except as a hazardous risk of the worst kind, used to be social evils. It is to be regretted that the law is incapable of universal application, as only a few months ago a calamity of this sort overwhelmed the town of Gefle, one of the prettiest and most thriving in the country. In an almost incredibly short space, the whole buildings on the north of the river which divides it were burned down. Seven hundred houses were destroyed, causing an estimated loss of 500,000*l.* Eight thousand families were made houseless, and ruin stared hundreds in the face who had been hopeful and prosperous the day before. The expansion of brick-making in many localities has removed any excuse for putting up wooden buildings, and if new houses of brick construction cost more, increased safety is provided for, and casualties are covered on reasonable terms.

The King, popular with all classes, is especially the friend of the soldier. His Majesty, it is unanimously allowed, has great military capacity; and had the Swedes, following their own bent, been permitted to assist Denmark in her unequal contest with Austria and Prussia, the grandson of Bernadotte would have commanded them in the field. Growing

years leave their influence on kings as on peasants, but as a younger man the King did not spare himself. He attended camp, personally investigated the condition of every department, and would march for hours in broiling weather, at the head of his favourite Foot Guards. Such kind of association could not fail to produce among the troops an attachment towards their chief, which would be true to him in peace as in war. Few sovereigns, putting aside the inclination, have the physical capacity to undertake the real duties of a soldier, and none knows better when they are efficiently performed than Charles XV. of Sweden.

CHAPTER X.

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE—RESOURCES, AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

AS among individuals it is not always the man of greatest wealth who exhibits the most enterprising spirit or supplies the best example, so we often find small States giving valuable lessons to "Great Powers" in the execution of works of extensive influence and commercial importance.

Sweden, which three centuries ago conceived the idea of uniting, by means of a water passage, the North Sea with the Baltic, had nearly completed one important canal, before the Duke of Bridgewater rose up to enlighten and to show us in England the great practical benefits of works of like nature.

Leopold of Belgium, the ruler of Lord Palmerston's "experimental little kingdom," supplied a similar

instance. He was the first European Sovereign to discover the powerful instrumentality of railways in developing the industrial resources of a nation.

The Gotha Canal, of which Sweden has the greatest and most just reason to be proud, has fulfilled the old idea of bringing together the waters of the North Sea and of the Baltic. It now forms a direct and easy communication between the two most important cities; has contributed to the growth of commerce, and given admirable facilities to extensive provinces for the development of their agricultural and other resources. Originally, the undertaking contemplated other purposes besides the carrying trade of the country. The two Belts and the Sound were in the hands of hostile Danes, and to command an independent entrance was of the utmost importance to Sweden. The length of the canal, inclusive of the lakes and streams which have been connected, is nearly 130 English miles, and of these, at least 30 have been carried through rock cuttings. The scientific Von Platten,—the inspiring genius of this great enterprise,—called in the aid of our countryman Telford, who had already obtained a distinguished professional eminence. These two able men, thus cordially associated, laid out the direction of one of

the greatest water passages ever formed by man's hand, although neither lived to see its successful completion. Thorough communication was not effected until 1832, twenty years after the commencement of operations. There was a marvellous difference between the first estimate and the actual cost, although it is difficult to understand on what data the former could have been calculated at so low a figure as 800,000 dollars, less than 50,000*l.* The total expenditure—and that would have been much more, except from great part of the works being executed by soldiers—was fifteen and a half million rix-dollars, or over 850,000*l.* sterling. From the Baltic to the highest level there is a rise of upwards of three hundred feet, and thence to Lake Wenern, the third largest lake in Europe, the descent exceeds one hundred and sixty feet. The Danish Hans Andersen grows enthusiastic as he describes the operations, as well as the charms of the waterfalls of Trollhättan, which a sail on the amalgamated canals also permits of being appreciated. "It sounds to the uninitiated like a fairy tale, when one says that the steamboat goes across lakes and over mountains from which the outstretched woods may be seen below. Immense sluices heave up and

lower the boats, while the travellers ramble in the woods. None of the cascades of Switzerland, none of Italy, not even that of Terni, have in them anything so imposing as that of Trollhättan."

Numerous other artificial watercourses of minor importance, some of them projected at an early period, though only carried out at comparatively recent dates, have done good service, and their execution reflects the higher credit on national enterprise from their having been either commenced or in the course of active construction shortly after the occurrence of great reverses, caused by the losses of Pomerania and Finland, when not only the finances but the energies of the people might fairly be expected to be at a very low ebb.

If the Swedes helped to teach us the utility of canal service, it is fortunate for them that they profited by our experience in the construction of railway works. We paid exorbitant apprentice fees, and those who have laid out railways at later periods have seen and avoided the rocks which caused lamentable shipwrecks. It was not until the year 1857 that the Swedish Government began in earnest that system of communication which has already borne great fruits, and supplied new impulse to

the energies of the population. Previously the nation had no internal debt, and the sound condition, therefore, of its finance permitted loans to be contracted on foreign Bourses at the low rate of 4½ per cent. These loans have been made at intervals solely in connexion with the system of railway works, and amount at the present time to between four and five million sterling. Public confidence is exhibited in the general stability, that whereas, *e. g.*, the Turkish Debt of Five per Cent. fetches the price of 40 per 100 on the London Exchange, the Four-and-Half per Cent. Debt of Sweden is worth there 98 per 100.

But prior to the resolution of Government to commence this enterprise, an English company penetrated into Sweden and selected a line of country through which it intended to carry a railway that, like the purpose of the Gotha Canal, was to connect the Baltic and the North Sea. Preliminary arrangements were easily completed at that time of day, and the high-sounding title, "The Royal Swedish Railway," possessed the requisite attractions. Early promises have not been fulfilled; these seas have not been connected. Five-and-thirty isolated miles only have been constructed at a respectable outlay of over 16,000*l.* per mile, and original and preference share-

holders, treated alike with singular impartiality—that is to say, neither receive one shilling of dividend—turn with longing eyes to Government in the hope that it will adopt the "Royal Swedish" as a part of the general system, and thus impart some value to their property.

Simultaneously with the construction of the Royal Swedish railway, other works were being executed on short lines selected by independent companies of Swedish shareholders, and one of these was opened for traffic a few months in advance of what is regarded as the English company.

Up to 1855 Government had declined to sanction by its personal adoption a scheme for railway communication which Count Rosen had prepared and submitted ten years before; but it had materially assisted the progress of the operations of private companies by advancing loans to them on easy terms. By that means those minor undertakings were successfully completed; the value of such service was perceived, and undoubtedly contributed to hurry on the commencement of a general system.

The question of inaugurating a system of State railways was resumed, and so great a change of opinion had occurred amongst the members of

Government and the Riksdag, that a resolution was arrived at to adopt the construction of all main lines at the public cost, and to place them under Government control. There were some cautious Northmen, though not many, who regarded this decision with ominous forebodings. So prejudiced were they against the plebeian railway institution, that one might have imagined they had been educated at the feet of English aristocrats of the old school; and then they contemplated with fear and trembling the creation of a national debt which was to swamp the country and floor them! Following up the decision of Parliament, a sum of money was voted for defraying the expenses of preliminary surveys, founded upon a consideration of the routes best suited for the development of traffic, and a due regard to topographical as well as economic conditions.

Most of the principal towns have been brought into communication with each other, and in a few years the railway network will be complete. Much unnecessary expenditure has been avoided, inasmuch as no works were commenced until plans for the general accommodation had been well considered. Already the Western and Southern main lines have been constructed. Old gentlemen have lived to perceive that

the iron horse is not the disagreeable animal they imagined, and that a debt created by reproductive works has no tendency to involve the nation in financial calamities. The fact is that, if traffic continues to be progressively developed, these railways will suffice by their ordinary revenue to pay all the charges of the funded debt, and the country will have derived an unspeakable advantage at no pecuniary sacrifice. The length of the lines already finished is between three and four hundred English miles. The total cost of the Southern main line has been upwards of 12,000*l.* per mile, and of the Western line, from the more difficult country, about 3000*l.* per mile more.

The engineer in chief was Nils Ericsson, whose brother is favourably known in the world of science. He has now retired from active employment, and to mark the high sense of eminent services, the King conferred on him a patent of nobility. Baron Ericsson was for many years an officer of engineers. He was educated at one of the military colleges of the country, where the gentlemen who have assisted him were likewise trained.

Neither railways nor canals carry any comparable quantity of the traffic of English and

American companies ; but their mode of conducting it gives a lesson to our transatlantic cousins and ourselves. We never hear of explosions on board steamers, or of railway massacres ! They are not, however, unprepared for casualties of the latter description, and all railway guards have to follow a course of minor surgery and bandaging, to fit them for affording provisional assistance.

Early in 1853, upon the report of the chief of the topographical department, it was resolved to construct magnetic electric telegraph lines throughout the kingdom. These lines, having their centre in the capital, were to connect the more important provincial towns, and also to form communication with Denmark and portions of the European Continent. The service thus determined upon was so energetically prosecuted, that in the brief period of eighteen months all was completed. Since that time large extensions have been sanctioned, so that at the end of 1860, including double lines, the total length was 688 geographical miles, costing about a million sterling. It was some time ere the Swedes gave in their practical adhesion to a novelty which must have startled and surprised them in an extraordinary degree. In 1855 they had become partially prepossessed, and that year

the telegraph yielded a profit of nearly seventeen thousand rix-dollars, and five years later the important increase of sixty-five thousand dollars. In 1857 the total telegram messages transmitted were 174,862, while in 1866 they rose to 418,744, establishing a difference of no less than 243,782 messages.

Inclusive of those connected with the lines of railway, the total number of telegraph stations is 267. Thousands of fair hands are busy in this department, and messages are flashed with such rapidity and correctness as might excite the jealousy of more stolid officials elsewhere. Two dollars are charged for each message transmitted inland, without reference to distance. A modification, it is thought, would render the department still more popular, and enhance pecuniary results.

In the "good old times," as we like to call them, although our forefathers growled just as much as we do, and that is a very great deal, "Ships, Colonies, and Commerce," used to be a favourite after-dinner toast in many circles. The Swedes also acknowledge its importance, but the little island of St. Bartholomew, with its mixed population of 3000, is the only colonial possession they can claim. It is a source neither of

anxiety nor of profit, and the services of no departmental chief are needed to direct the growth of tobacco, its principal product. For many years the French and English held alternate occupation, preceding 1785, when the former ceded the island to Sweden, and the partnership runs no risk of being violently annulled.

The Northmen have been famed as seamen from those early days when, on board their gaudy and terrible barks, they left their own homes to be the scourge of European seas. At a later period, especially in its contentions with Russia, the Swedish navy exhibited a remarkable superiority, and although no opportunities for distinction have recently been presented, the old confidence remains. The present naval power is not to be despised. It counts 300 sail, including ten vessels of the line, six frigates, and a large number of gun-sloops and gun-boats; fifteen thousand sailors belong to it, of whom however more than one-half are on furlough or attached to the fleet of reserve.

But for purposes of practical utility, we shall attach greater importance to the commercial fleet of the country. While that of several of the lesser powers, such as Holland and Spain, has been decreasing, the Swedish marine has increased three-fold, independently

of the numerous steamers and sailing ships employed exclusively in the inland navigation. The influence of its trading relations is best gathered from the fact that it owns nearly 4000 sail, representing 300,000 tons, and giving employment to 18,000 men. We are accustomed to large figures, and our own mercantile marine is now equal to the tonnage of the world, but the efforts of Swedes in this department are creditable to their enterprise, and encourage reasonable expectations of further progress. They have followed a wise course, which government has encouraged, in order to ensure efficiency. The works at Motala, especially in connexion with the building of iron ships, are in admirable state of forwardness. Improvements introduced by leading foreign states have been carefully investigated and endorsed, but indeed in this department of skilled labour nature seems to have bestowed especial aptitude, and perhaps there is not any other in which Swedes have shown greater proficiency. The merchant vessels, especially from the yards of Motala, are models of strength and symmetry.

Superior ships naturally impart confidence, and this leads to the expansion of trade. According to an old English writer, commerce in Sweden must once

have been very poorly represented. Nothing, he says, is manufactured save "iron, tar, and gloves." Even in his time things were not so bad as that, and he had carried away with him an exaggerated idea of the poverty of commercial elements. Prior to the regeneration effected by Gustavus Wasa, it is true it was without manufactures of any description, but the earliest efforts of that Prince were directed to their encouragement, and now the list includes woollen, linen, cotton and silk fabrics, paper, glass, iron ware, earthenware, leather, tobacco, refined sugar, soap, and last, though scarcely least, those gloves which are popular investments in every capital of Europe. Of articles at present in universal use, pottery was not manufactured until the beginning of the eighteenth century, wood having been employed for drinking-cups and trenchers and iron and copper vessels for domestic purposes. Within a very recent period all the better descriptions of cutlery were imported from England. It had the double advantage of superiority and comparative cheapness; but international exhibitions and improved facilities of communication have supplied many practical lessons which have not been thrown away. The towns of Motala and Ekilstuna are acquiring the sort of reputation for hardware we are proud to accord to the

cunning artificers of Birmingham and Sheffield. We continue, however, curiously enough, to give the Swedes their best steel, no description being manufactured in the country, except that which is named after the inventor, Mr. Bessemer.

The industrial condition of Sweden, as partly shown by its exports and imports, exhibits some marked results. A hundred and fifty years ago Great Britain did not import from that country more than 300,000*l.* of articles, nor export above 100,000*l.*, and now we probably receive and send back as much as all other nations combined.

In 1831 the export trade represented the value of					£1,297,083
1855	„	„	„	„	2,916,600
1866	„	„	„	„	5,948,111
In 1831 the import trade represented the value of					1,025,250
1855	„	„	„	„	5,591,600
1866	„	„	„	„	6,272,777

Of imports at the present day, woollen goods form a heavy item. In the southern provinces sheep might be reared in much greater quantities with pecuniary advantage, so that, instead of having to send 50,000*l.* annually to England for the purchase of manufactured goods, the supply of the raw material would be found at home.

Fisheries both in salt and fresh waters form an important branch of industry. The Gulf of Bothnia sends great supplies of the most popular kind, consisting of a small fish called "stromming," and salmon. The former, about the size of a sprat, are cured like herrings, and welcomed in every household. Their use is as general as the potato, and menials would withhold their services if from any cause the customary allowance of "stromming" were not made a certainty. But a great misfortune befel the sea-fishing interests sixty years ago, which brought desolation into many families and dwarfed one branch of industry. For generations, except at intervals, up to the beginning of the present century immense shoals of herring frequented the south and west coasts, and were the source of much national wealth. No other fisheries in Europe of the same description were so productive, and in 1556, after having partially disappeared for some years, the fish are said to have returned in fabulous numbers. For miles the shores of the mainland were crowded with curing establishments, labourers were attracted to these spots from every province, and an extensive and active trade was created with Denmark, Holland, Germany, France, and England; but thirty

years later another capricious change took place, and not a specimen was to be found. All sorts of speculation arose, but popular belief accounted for it in this way, that the queen of the herrings, of such imposing size and obesity that two men could scarcely support the weight when she was suspended on a pole, having been kidnapped the season previously, the tribe had resented the outrage and gone elsewhere! There were some who favoured the opinion that mischievous little "trolle" was the cause of the evil, one of his agents, a copper horse of surprising voracity, having been cast by its chief into the sea, and there devoured or frighted away the food of the people. Whichever of these reasons is the more trustworthy, one need not seek to determine. It is certain that for 73 years, herrings appeared in the smallest quantities only on the Bohus coast, and operations were not resumed until 1660, and then on a limited scale. Old stations had long ago been broken up, and prudent men dreaded an expenditure that might be rendered valueless at any moment from some mysterious agency. The country too was unsettled, Norway or Denmark, and sometimes both combined, assuming threatening attitudes, to the constant interruption of peaceful occupations; but in 1747 the fish once more esta-

blished themselves on their ancient ground in such enticing numbers that the trade was recommenced, and continued to be prosecuted with success until in 1808, influenced by some new freak, they again deserted the locality, to which they have never since shown any disposition to return. During these sixty-one years the "take" was often prodigious, so that four bushels might occasionally be purchased on the spot for a halfpenny, and in one season 2,938,000 barrels were secured, ample proof of the extraordinary abundance. This success was highly beneficial in many respects. It was the means of supplying employment to many thousands, and the produce, much of it sent to foreign countries, increased native wealth. The suddenness of the collapse aggravated the evil, which was indeed a great national calamity. The wise as well as the foolish busied themselves to account for the mysterious cause; Government appointed what we should call a mixed commission of scientific and practical men to examine the subject, and speculative reasons were produced in endless variety. Here are some of them:—The noise and uproar in the "Skärgärd" from the operations of the thousands employed; the excessive quantity of foul refuse thrown into the sea, which, producing an unbearable stench,

destroyed all submarine vegetation; the wholesale destruction of fry and lesser fish arising from the smallness of the meshes, and the gigantic proportions of drag nets which swept the bottom to the destruction of grass and other plants that supplied the fish with convenient spawning beds. Few were willing to accept these reasons as conclusive, and the fishermen ridiculed them. They preferred relying upon superstition as their mysterious guide, and declared that the fish captured on these stations were different from all other inhabitants of the deep. They did not breed like ordinary varieties, but had a separate creation by Providence every third year, or, according to another section, they were quickened in the sea every month out of a green substance which flourished on the surface. The notion therefore that creatures so produced in unlimited quantities should be diminished or destroyed by any of those agencies suggested by the commissioners, was denounced as absurd, and until this day no generally accepted solution has been presented. Mr. Lloyd* very cautiously observes that in his opinion the absence of the fish is owing to "some hidden law of nature," and predicts

* "The Game Birds, &c., of Sweden." 1867.

their reappearance. Another writer* attributes the disappearance to "the great thanklessness shown by the people to God, and the way in which they have abused His many bounteous gifts; as also their ungodly and dissolute lives were no doubt the cause of disappearance of the herrings." Dr. McCulloch,† a very intelligent authority, likewise disagrees with the conclusions of the commissioners on other grounds: "Ordinary philosophy," he says, "is never content unless it can find a solution for everything, and is satisfied for this reason with imaginary ones." He refers to the case of Long Island, one of the Hebrides, which once was a herring station, and because, by some imaginary coincidence, the fish left it simultaneously with the commencement of kelp-manufacturing there, the theory that the fires in connexion with the process affrighted them was generally accepted; but on other shores the manufacture was in similar activity, and shoals of herring found there previously, were content to remain in their ancient quarters. "It has been a still more favourite and popular fancy that they were driven away by the firing of guns, and hence this is not allowed during the fishing season. A gun has scarcely

* Peder Clausen. † McCulloch.

been fired on the Western Islands or on the West Coast since the days of Oliver Cromwell, yet they (herrings) have changed their places many times in the interval. In a similar manner and with equal truth it was said they had been driven from the Baltic by the battle of Copenhagen!" Our own Highlanders vie with their Scandinavian brethren in ingenious hypotheses. Before guns and gunpowder were, they maintained that herrings ceased to frequent the coasts where blood had been shed, and now steamers supply a fresh reason for their disappearance, but, as Dr. McCulloch says, the best specimens are caught in much abundance in Loch Fine, on which steamers ply daily, and from other lochs, where steamboats have never smoked, they have mysteriously disappeared.

It is vain to search for reasons which will fail now, as before, to be generally satisfactory. The loss of the fishing was a national disaster which has only been compensated by the creation of other branches of industrial employment, but while the multitude continues to sorrow, there are others who extract the elements of rejoicing. Mr. Holmburg, a native author, says, when the fishing was in the height of its prosperity—"The vagabond life led by the people ex-

ceeded all belief. Blasphemy, outrages, immorality of all kinds, and scenes of beastly drunkenness, were going on all day. From morning to night the fishermen and others were staggering about in their houses, their boats, and on the piers, whilst the nights were devoted to debaucheries of the worst description, little surprising from the fact that the people of both sexes thus congregated together were for the most part the very dregs of society." He adds that the inhabitants of the province exclaimed then, as residents do now, when revival of the trade is hinted at as a possibility, "God forbid that the herrings should ever again come back!"

Agriculture.—The chief source of national wealth must continue to be agriculture, and self-interest ought to neglect no opportunity for fostering and extending it. A greatly increased breadth of cultivation and the general adoption of improved systems are the first steps—produce would be augmented, and by and by more capital be made available for the development of those mineral riches which exist in large abundance.

During the last twenty years this subject has obtained much attention with highly beneficial results, so that, whereas formerly little or no grain was ex-

ported, there is an income now, thence derived, of more than half a million yearly. The Danes have been better practical agriculturists hitherto than their neighbours. In many instances, it is true, they have a more grateful soil, and kinder climate, but these don't account for the whole difference. The area of Denmark is a fourteenth part less than that of Sweden, with 1,700,000 inhabitants as against 4,000,000, and yet the estimated value of land in the two countries is 16,000,000*l.* in favour of Denmark. The fondness for purchasing estates for the sake of forests which has been already referred to, is a grievous hindrance to agricultural prosperity. Such owners treat the cultivation of the lands as a subordinate affair. They are but birds of passage, and permanent improvements on their part are out of the question. Besides, they have no knowledge of practical agriculture, and attempts, if made, would be sure to be failures. Gustaf Wasa was seldom wrong, and there is an old saying of his, carefully preserved, full of wisdom: "Let tradespeople remain tradespeople, and farmers be farmers!" If men would only stick to the employment they really understand, there would be less poverty abroad in the world. Numerous successful efforts have, however, been made

by other landed proprietors to give effect to modern systems of improvement. It is to be desired that Government would inaugurate the plan ours wisely adopted, of advancing money for the reclamation of wastes and for drainage purposes. Swedish credit stands high on foreign Bourses, and loans can be raised on easy terms, while on the principle of capital and interest being repaid by a fixed number of equal annual amounts, such improvements would be effected without pecuniary pressure, and with results that would immensely enhance the products of the country. Sweden is not behind other nations in having Agricultural Societies, and so long ago as 1813 the "Agricultural Academy" has been one of its institutions, but it is not by means of an experimental farm of a few hundred acres in the neighbourhood of Stockholm, which the Society possesses, that a general stimulus is to be provided. The successful pursuit of agriculture is synonymous with national prosperity, for seven-eighths of the population are, in rural districts, most of them directly engaged in, and all more or less indirectly dependent upon it. Undoubtedly greater earnestness has been exhibited of late years, and nothing has been more serviceable than the establishment of Agricultural Schools in

different districts. A director, appointed and salaried by Government and usually the owner of a large farm or estate, receives as pupils a limited number of young men, some of whom are free students, named by a committee of management attached to each school, and selected from the sons of peasant landowners. This also is a wise provision. The peasants, we have seen, are a very numerous and influential body, and the value of land in gross in their occupation amounts to several millions sterling. All of them are practical men, strongly prejudiced in favour of the maxims and customs of antiquity, to which they cling with the tenacity of Chinamen. There will be real difficulty in forcing upon them the adoption of new systems, and this can only be effected by slow degrees and gentle processes. The plan selected is practically to make their children that agency, and another generation may witness in great measure its successful execution. On the farms where this teaching is going on, improved implements are in use, and the influence of scientific appliances so explained and illustrated, that conviction follows as matter of course. Intelligent pupils may well wonder why, if in other departments of industry so great advantages have accrued, their fathers still refuse to be benefited by the teaching

of science and the aid of mechanical invention. In the marts of Europe the prices of grain are more likely to fall than to rise, and the only way by which agriculturists can hope for reasonable success is by omitting no available means to increase production, and the employment of the best mechanical assistance. Pupils remain at these Agricultural Schools for a couple of years, and give a helping hand in out of door operations. In winter the director seeks to *enliven* the long evenings—we trust successfully—by discoursing on topics which concern the breeding and rearing of stock, manuring of land, the drainage of lochs, and the best rotations; and as a "veterinary" usually belongs to the establishment, lectures by him vary the entertainment. The course being finished, all free students undergo an examination, which, if satisfactory, entitles them to a certificate of merit, and either become farm overseers, or return to the paternal acres, carrying with them, it is hoped, the power as well as determination to introduce such sweeping reforms as the efforts of a hundred strangers would be inadequate to effect.

Several of the landed gentry, to combine the advantages of foreign travel with instruction in

agriculture, as successfully practised, have placed their sons with eminent farmers, principally in Scotland, where the best rules and practice in all departments are observed. The belief that agriculture is better understood in Scotland than in England is an old inheritance. It is known that Gustaf Wasa and James V. corresponded on the subject, and the former was besides desirous of creating a trade in horses between the two countries. It had been better for at least one Scotchman if this estimate of his countrymen's departmental superiority had not existed. Alexander Blackwell, a native of Aberdeen, had passed through many vicissitudes, when—like other discreet men—he wrote a book, dedicating it to agriculture. Somehow the King of Sweden, hearing of its merits, invited the author to take up his residence in Stockholm. A pension was settled upon Blackwell, and fortune smiled upon him. The period was a brief one. His native caution had deserted him, and for some imprudent freedom of speech he was unjustly suspected of complicity in a plot for the overthrow of the constitution. The poor Scotchman was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to be broken alive on the wheel. Since then, no Scottish agriculturist has found similar employment, and the

fear of Blackwell's fate may have diminished individual longing for it.

As an evidence of the importance of agriculture, it may be noted that on an average of each of the preceding five years, we have received 700,000*l.* of grain, which is twice the value of the iron exported, and nearly one-half that of the deals and timber. But the present production is no criterion of real capabilities. Immense tracts might be added to the area of cultivation, and artificial manures, not stintily applied as at present, would increase the elements of fertility. There is no department in which management is so faulty as that which relates to manuring. A want of economy is observable in the treatment of farm manure, which is rarely sheltered from the weather. The quantity too is often inadequate, and no auxiliary supply exists. Why not bring into general use many of the descriptions we have found so effectual, and which are equally within their reach? It is not so long ago since phosphatic manures were in their infancy, and everybody knows the beneficial results that have followed from their free application. There can be no doubt that *bone* as a manure has been one of the greatest boons to agriculture,

and its influence on Swedish soil would not be less than on our own. The use especially of this description of stimulants, communicates properties to the land of a permanent kind. Without the great assistance contributed to it by the various appliances of scientific culture, our present production must have been miserable in comparison, and it is not merely shortsightedness, but positive weakness, which deters from the practice of a system that has caused fertility to spring out of barrenness, and converted acres that barely repaid the cost of labour, into fields of waving corn.

The railway system, as it continues to be extended, will assuredly introduce a new era in agriculture. What is true of it in one country, another is certain to find verified by experience. Railways have contributed to success by bringing the leading marts within easy reach, supplying facilities for the transport of all descriptions of produce, opening up new centres and expanding the general trade and commerce to the benefit of every class. Government having the property as well as the control, will be specially careful to make them subordinate to the development of national resources. Already railway accom-

modation has been the chief means of originating a new article of foreign commerce. In 1866 there were sent to our markets from Sweden between eight and nine thousand head of horned cattle, sheep, and pigs. Many parts of the country are well adapted for grazing, and cattle breeding might be immensely extended. By careful attention it would pay well, and the exportation of live stock would contribute more effectually than any other means to improve native herds and enhance the value of stock of every description. In this department Denmark has exhibited greater means and activity, for during the last three years there have been exported thence in cattle, sheep, and pigs, principally to England, no fewer than 129,000 head. At the present time we receive supplies of this description from provinces much further removed from our shores than Sweden. Comparing prices in the two countries, the trade could not fail to be remunerative, if judiciously conducted.*

Forests and Mines.—Timber and minerals for generations were almost the only articles of export, and in the further development of the latter, many

* The price of butchers' meat in the capital averages about 5*d.* per lb. In the provinces it is much less.

tell you, lies the certainty of great future riches. It used to be said that the forests covered more than half the surface of the country, but that calculation, probably always exaggerated, does not represent the existing state of things, one fourth being a nearer approximation. During the present century, and specially in the last fifty years, a great expansion of the timber trade has taken place. Speculative enterprise has often unnaturally stimulated it, and unfortunately, with the rarest exceptions, operations have been directed to cutting down, and not to replanting. Timber, therefore, is neither so good nor abundant in many districts as formerly. Immense tracts of land have changed hands solely for the sake of the wood and its separate resale. An ownership undertaken for one imperial purpose—to destroy and not to build up—portends mischief, and the nation has experienced, and must continue to feel, the baneful influence of this unnatural combination. Estates have not only been dilapidated by the unrestricted licence given to the axe, and their amenities cruelly destroyed, but the land itself has eventually fallen into the possession of an inferior class without the means of doing it justice, hence producing deterioration in another form. Forests, thousands of

acres in extent, have disappeared without an effort or thought to replace them. When the *débris* of branches has been removed (five or six years probably), a crop of natural wood springs up, choked in one place, isolated in another, and a couple of lifetimes is consumed before any advantages are forthcoming. The loss is deplorable, and supplies an instance of the prevailing want of capital. We rarely replant forest lands in England and Scotland, but metamorphose them as quickly as possible into agricultural districts, immediately creating reproductive property, and making some amends for the destruction of familiar and ornamental objects. If Sweden does not follow our example, she must grow poorer and not richer. Circumstances will force it on her by-and-by. It is nearly certain that the present quantity of timber annually cut down and exported must lead to a positive scarcity for general purposes. Railways will no doubt help to make available a great deal that has hitherto been isolated, but they may also aggravate the mania for buying land for the purpose of laying forests waste.*

* On this subject the following is from a recent report of the British Consul at Stockholm to the Foreign Office:—"A country with such extensive forests might reasonably be supposed to possess

There are many great forests whose isolated position or distance from seaboard and the centres of population, makes of no practical value, nor is there a probability that they will ever become valuable. Some are remarkable for extent and the splendour of their timber.

> "Those dark forests where through many an age,
> Night without day no axe the silence broke."

The Swedes treat purely as income the large sums they receive for exports in deals and timber; but this is a fallacy. Much is an encroachment on capital by reducing the value of the national area, and therefore, unless returns are forthcoming by the expansion of other sources of production, diminished revenues will be inevitable. The whole question of the prudent preservation and reproduction of timber is one calling for the serious attention of practical politicians. It has been too long neglected from a popular belief that, supplies being inexhaustible, there was no neces-

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almost inexhaustible resources of forest produce; yet there is a general apprehension of an approaching failure in this product in the populated parts of the kingdom. Hitherto immense quantities of wood and timber have been exported, but a reduction in this article of export is likely soon to take place, as the forests in the more populous parts of the kingdom consist chiefly of young wood, and the forest districts in the northern parts situated along the lines of communication are said to have been ravaged to a great extent."

sity for its contemplation. Circumstances imparting an anxious complexion to the subject have recently wrought changes of opinion, and another generation may have cause to regret the delay. For fuel, coal may no doubt be substituted in some localities, at a cost perhaps less than is now paid for wood, but that would not be a satisfactory result, at least in the view of political economists. With an insignificant exception, coal is not an indigenous article, and circulating money in the country to pay for wood is a different thing from remitting the same value to foreign States to buy coal. It sounds odd that our coal should find a ready market in exceptional districts, where the supply of firewood is still great, and in spite of a water-carriage of a thousand miles. Twenty years ago, "shipping coals to Stockholm" would have been considered as foolish an operation as sending them to Newcastle, but British merchants, have found it answer. It may be noticed that this coal trade has assisted in the formation of another branch which is sure to be useful. The Messrs. Fawcus, of West Hartlepool, following the plan of similar works of theirs in different parts of the Continent, have erected a coke manufactory in the outskirts of the capital, and thus

have the merit of introducing a new and probably permanent branch of industry, valuable in itself and conducive to the comforts of travellers who avail themselves of steam locomotion by land or water.

Minerals.—Considering the number of mines of various descriptions, computed at 600, of which the greatest proportion are iron, the comparative smallness of production shows that feeble means for working many of them are only available. No one doubts the richness of the deposits, but besides the obstacles arising from restricted capital, there are frequently superadded the difficulties of access and the natural inconveniences of locality. The comparative cheapness of fuel and labour is of little avail in presence of such drawbacks. Money and science during the last hundred years have wonderfully increased our own mineral production, and raised the iron trade, from being a department of minor importance, into one of foremost rank. In the middle of last century our furnaces yielded no more than twenty thousand tons yearly, and now the amount is five millions. Let the Swedes take courage, and compete for a place in the race of progress. The total annual production of iron in Sweden is not much above 100,000 tons, three-fourths of which

are exported. Great Britain probably receives 50,000 tons. It is to be remembered, however, that we send back again a large value in the shape of steel, and manufactured iron goods of divers kinds.

The most remarkable mines, although by no means the most profitable, are those at Falun, which have an historical existence of more than 600 years, and it is certain that they are several centuries older. Olof Rudbeck, whose favourite contention was that Sweden was the country whence all the ancient Pagan divinities and our first parents were derived, and that the nations of Europe had their original habitation there,* avers that Solomon received from these mines the copper wherewith to roof his temple! but proofs, as may be imagined, are not very clear, and the question may be compromised by the admission that they undoubtedly are of very great antiquity. It has indeed been more generally asserted that their existence was known in the East, and hence the adage, "He who wishes to grow rich should go to the North; he who would be wise should dwell in the East." The production has been periodically diminishing, so that now the amount is a fourth less than it was two hundred years ago.

* Rudbeck's "Atlantica," &c.

Several of the iron mines have been in working condition for many generations, and it is on this description of mineral deposits that the safest calculations of riches are usually founded. Those of Danemora, on the site of what was originally a silver mine in which operations have been carried on since the fifteenth century, yield a metal that in respect of ductility and malleability is the best in Europe. We receive nearly the whole in our markets, and it has helped to make our cutlery the envy of the world. It was in these mines where Gustaf Wasa, pursued by hostile Danes, found shelter and worked until the embroidered collar of his shirt attracting the curious eyes of a woman—his fellow-labourer—was the means of revealing his identity.

Attempts have often been made to attract foreign capital to mining adventures, and in 1863 a company was launched in London and Stockholm, of great pretensions, which offered golden results. The rich iron field of promise was the *Gellivare Mountain*, in Lapmark, 1800 feet high, known, so long ago as 1730, to contain one mass of ore. Hitherto efforts to render this wealth available had not succeeded, from the difficulties of access, and the expense of transporting the produce, which had to be done on the

backs of reindeer. The property had frequently changed hands. Bernadotte, hearing of its fame, purchased it as a private speculation, and his successor, King Oscar, on a resale realized at a considerable advance. Several other men in the interval had been the successive rulers of this northern province. Everything about the undertaking sounded grand. The very array of large figures made it respectable. There was an area of twelve hundred thousand acres. Half a million of these were forest ground. One hundred thousand were well adapted for cultivation. The purchase price was only 225,000*l.*, and an outlay of 230,000*l.* would secure a communication with the Gulf of Bothnia by means of railway and canal. From various sources the company would present net returns equal to nineteen per cent. Happy shareholders, twice each year, to have pockets stuffed with 47,000*l.*! and so certain was success that for a period of three years, until supplementary works could be completed, and time had assisted to develop them, the vendors consented to put aside 50,000*l.*, which was to be a guarantee for the payment of six per cent. dividends. A company thus gilded could not fail of attractions for sanguine capitalists, and its lists were rapidly

completed. The Stock Exchange approved the constitution, and honoured the venture with a place in its daily list. There were a few *weak* men who sold their allotments at a premium, and subsequently realized the comforts of having no calls to pay! Months progressed; not so the new works; and by general admission it came to be an acknowledged fact that capital was insufficient, and golden dreams were not to be realized. It was an ominous sign that Swedes had never shown any anxiety to become shareholders, and many of them had the audacity to laugh at that strange compound of gullibility and sagacity, John Bull! There cannot be a doubt that the value of the mineral deposits is immense. Dr. Clark,* in 1824, thus speaks of them:—"Gellivare is the largest iron mine in Sweden, and perhaps in the whole world. Its layer of ore extends for several miles, and is so rich that it leaves 60 per cent. of iron." But the prospectus was careful to avoid any reference to a variety of circumstances which conspired to damage its calculations. One hundred thousand acres form a large area of cultivation, capable of a great yield; but those who

* Clark's "Travels in Sweden."

knew the district could have told that corn ripens only once in three years, and that were there agricultural competitions, a potato two inches in length would be sure to gain the highest prize. And where was the labour to come from? The forest was to yield in clear profit 20,000*l.* a year for an indefinite period! Who were to fell the trees and saw the timber? Thousands upon thousands would represent the value of the metal, but where were busy hands to be found to raise and smelt it? The Lapps, from their wandering life and habits, could not reasonably be expected to become steady and sedate labourers. It was not probable that the mine could be worked throughout the whole year, and men brought from a distance to be so engaged for a few months, and returned from whence they came at the end of the season, must have involved the costliest service. The Swedes knew the thing would not answer, nor had they long to wait till their prophecies were realized. The iron mountain has not been removed; it has not even produced a mouse. Its hidden riches remain for the enterprise of another association. These 500,000 acres of magnificent pines, meanwhile, will grow more magnificent, and the culture of potatoes may become less discouraging.

"Britishers" will continue subject periodically to spasmodic attacks of speculative insanity, in one of which, exceeding ordinary violence we shall have the Gellivare prospectus revived, more formidable in its dimensions, more profuse in its offerings. The Gulf of Bothnia will be described as the natural depôt of inexhaustible supplies of iron, timber, and deals! For the sake of the happiness of hopeful fellow-countrymen let us wish that great results will come to pass. Sweden may well join in the aspiration, for she would assuredly be a profiter. Is it worth inquiring if British capital might not be more comfortably invested nearer home? Ah! my friends, it is not always these tempting paper returns that bring most riches in the long run! "Commend me," said Lord Stowell, "to the aristocratic Three per Cents." His Lordship followed his own counsels, and left a quarter of a million of money!

Gold and silver are likewise native products. The gold currency is exceedingly limited, and a *ducat*, the only description, is a sight of singularly rare occurrence. The old Spanish proverb says, "A silver mine brings misery, a gold one ruin." The history of these mines in Sweden does not refute its truthfulness.

CHAPTER XI.

SWEDES AT HOME. KINGLY AUTHORITY AS VARIOUSLY EXERCISED.

I DO not care to refer to kings and people prior to the period when Gustaf Ericsson, a simple gentleman of ancient and even royal extraction, rescued his country from the tyranny of Danish usurpers, and under the title of "Gustavus Wasa" secured the independence which Sweden has since preserved. Previously all was chaos. The inhabitants, groaning under a cruel bondage, were everywhere persecuted and oppressed, and Christian II., the "Nero of the North," as he has been called, to rivet more securely the chains of despotism, had just commanded the massacre of the nobles in Stockholm, whither they had been summoned under the false pretence of a friendly conference, among them being

the father of the future king. The many wanderings and disguises of Wasa, the humility of his occupations,* his marvellous escapes, the fidelity of the peasants in their disdainful rejection of every bribe, the steady pursuit of his efforts, and the final triumph of his patriotism, have often been recorded. When his fortunes appeared to be at their lowest ebb, there were some whose opinions never faltered, that he was to be the regenerator of their country. It is said that the ladies who were present on the auspicious occasion of his birth saw in the new-born child presages of future greatness. On his head was a caul, closely resembling a helmet, and on his bosom the print of a silver cross. "Gustavus in Arce nascitur Lindholm, mense 12 Maii, galeam in capite membraneam et rubicundam, in pectore crucem de utero preferens materno, hisque palam faciens prodigiis in quantum evasurus esset heroem."† It was well that these happy anticipations were fulfilled. His countrymen have proved loyal to his memory, and on the completion of each revolving century from

* Gustavus III. erected a monument in porphyry on the scene of one of his adventures, and inscribed, "Here Gustaf Ericsson threshed!"

† Messenii Scandia Illustrata.

his death the whole nation holds a day of jubilee. His virtues are the universal theme. The valour, the wisdom, the patriotism of their king, supply exhaustless material for discourse and song. Independence is the glory of nations as of individuals. It was the courage of Gustaf Wasa which secured it for Sweden, his statesmanship that imparted to it strength and vitality. The words on his tomb best express the sentiments of his countrymen,

"Pater Patriæ!"

No wonder that he is held among them in grateful remembrance,

"Whose noble deeds above the Northern star
Immortal fame for ever hath enrolled."

From having been elective, the new King made the succession to the Crown hereditary. The finances were in wretched plight, and, except among ecclesiastics, there was no wealth. Inclusive of the army, the annual national expenditure was about seven thousand pounds, and the whole revenues, counting Finland, did not exceed three thousand. Such a state of things must have soon been intolerable, had Gustavus not called to his aid a firm purpose and resolute will. There were many valuables in the

churches and monasteries, unnecessary in his view for the furtherance of a pure faith, and the monstrances and the chalices were made to solve a financial difficulty. It was a strong measure, but strong measures were required for the situation. His favourite precept helped the course he had determined upon. "Consider well," he said, "execute with vigour, and stick to your purpose. Put nothing off until to-morrow. Resolves carried out at the right moment, are like clouds without rain in a sore drought." This step was the beginning of those contentions which witnessed the overthrow of the Roman Catholic religion, and resulting in the establishment of the doctrines of the Reformation, have given the King of Sweden a great place in that resurrection of truth and reason. It cannot perhaps be affirmed that the means always justified the end, but a strong personal conviction on the King's part of the errors of popery, formed it is said during his enforced residence at Lubeck, assisted him to a resolution from which he never deviated. He was besides impressed by reasons of sound policy that opposed themselves to any ecclesiastical government that made the clergy the sole depositaries of national wealth, and permitted them to apply it to

purposes that were questionable, and oftentimes positively bad.

In 1527 the whole property of the church was confiscated by royal decree, and applied to State purposes. It will not be imagined that such transference, even in those days of personal government, was to be carried into effect without some spirited remonstrance. "The *mildness* of the clergy," is now frequently an exaggerated expression, and in the sixteenth century it was wholly inapplicable; but priestly fulminations neither appalled nor moved Gustavus. One dignitary exclaimed that "the gifts confirmed by kings and emperors cannot be filched away without God's curse and eternal damnation;" on which the King aptly inquired, "What if these possessions were obtained by fraud, by the preaching of purgatory, or such like cozenage of priests and friars?"

But Gustavus Wasa not having been educated in a school of theology and physics, found it no easy task to combat the practised speech and subtle arguments of the Romish priesthood. He therefore called to his aid two men of low decent—the sons of a village blacksmith—but of high intellect, who had gained great distinction at Wittenberg, and

were favourite pupils of Luther and Melancthon. Olaus and Laurentius Petri amply justified the selection. They were persons of great eloquence and power, whose training enabled them to expose sophistry and to vindicate the Reformation principles. None could have been more energetic and useful coadjutors. Besides polemical contributions, Olaus wrote the earliest translation of the New Testament, as well as the earliest Catechism, and relieved the severity of his theological studies by presenting to his countrymen the first dramatic composition in the Swedish language. Laurentius, not less active, was less versatile. He translated the Old Testament, compiled a code of ecclesiastical law, and had his labours rewarded by being appointed Protestant Archbishop of Upsala.

Church government reconstituted, the King's attention was turned from a special to a general point of view—the condition of his subjects and the requirements of the nation. Here he displayed the best qualities of a wise statesman. He had already established a reputation for personal courage and military command, and was altogether averse from the pursuit of an aggressive foreign policy. He saw that the prosperity of the kingdom and the

survivance of his dynasty depended upon the steady development of natural resources and the creation and spread of commerce. The country was without manufactures of any sort, except such as the Dutch and English markets supplied. When he died the wonderfully improved state of the revenue showed the success he had achieved. Industrial contributions of various kinds had made important progress, and he left a powerful navy to protect the newly-formed commerce. He was the ruler of a great territory. Besides Finland, with an area of 120,000 square miles, Sweden was twice the size of Great Britain. When he succeeded, its arterial communications were wretched, and the whole country was land-locked. Those magnificent lakes, among the largest in Europe, which enterprise and science combined have since converted into great highways, were only isolated expanses of water; and if the King could not accomplish all he desired, he perceived the disadvantages of difficult accesses and did his best to remove them. The services of landowners and their dependents were claimed to construct leading thoroughfares and to maintain them—an obligation upon land which still continues. If his successors had been content to abide by the system of paternal government of which

he set the example, we might have heard less of Gustavus Adolphus and Charles XII., but the condition of Sweden in respect of national wealth, and probably political consideration, would undoubtedly have been higher than at the present day.

Queen Christina—the only child of the great Gustavus, and granddaughter of Wasa—disappointed, by the frailties of maturer years, all the promise of her youth. She was an infant when her father died, but his virtues and achievements secured the affectionate devotion of her subjects, while the wisdom of the Chancellor Oxenstiern was ever at command to counsel and to guide her. Nature had been bountiful to the young Princess, who seemed fitted to adorn an exalted position. Her life, however, was a tissue of inconsistency and contradiction. If she exhibited occasional instances of magnanimity, mildness, and frankness, they were quickly followed by acts of vanity, severity, and dissimulation. She possessed much knowledge of the world and acuteness of penetration, yet these were insufficient to preserve her from visionary projects and from dreams of alchemy and astrology. No woman ever received so many splendid offers of marriage, all of which she resolutely put aside. The King of Spain, the

King of Poland, the Elector Palatine, the Elector of Brandenburg, the Princes of Denmark, Austria, and Bavaria, were in the lists of her rejected suitors. Between the glorious founder of the dynasty and this prodigal descendant no more striking contrast could have existed. The simplicity of his life, the lascivious excitement of hers; his adoption of Protestantism from conviction, her abjuration of it from caprice; his careful guardianship of the public treasury, her unprincipled scattering of it away, are but a few of many instances. She made nearly five hundred additions to the nobility, and showed her respect for the body by enrolling among them one John Holm, a tailor, who appropriated the patronymic of "Lejoncrona" (lion crown). The Court was attended by dancers, singers, and low comedians, and ballets were improvised in which the Queen degraded herself by taking part. Yet this strange woman was a distinguished patron of learning. She increased the public grants to the universities, and learned men came in crowds from other Courts. Grotius, Puffendorf, and Descartes were among the number she encouraged and promoted. She must have known that her once attached subjects had ceased to respect her character and person, and although her original

determination to abdicate was at first popularly contested, it was joyfully acquiesced in when repeated. She became the neighbour of the Pope, but did not remain long in one place, and, as might have been anticipated, all her plans were marked by restlessness and uncertainty. Contempt was afterwards changed into detestation when the world learned the circumstances attending the assassination of her favourite Monaldeschi, which took place by her command. During a visit she made to Paris, Mademoiselle de Montpensier writes of her:—

"We went to the comedy, where her behaviour surprised me. To perceive the passages which gave her pleasure! She would swear by God, lie down in her chair, throw her legs about, and assume postures not very decent!"

Christina was occasionally candid, as the following little piece of autobiography attests. She says: "I am mistrustful, ambitious, passionate, haughty, impatient, contemptuous, satirical, incredulous, undevout, of an ardent and violent temper, and extremely amorous!"

We turn from this sketch of an unprincipled woman to notice briefly the career of the founder of a new dynasty.

Deriving no advantage from the accident of birth —the son of a notary at Pau—young Bernadotte, at first a soldier in the ranks, raised himself, by his professional qualities and genius for command, to be a Marshal in the army of the French Empire, and Prince of Como. Some of his future subjects made their first acquaintance with him on the field of battle, where at the head of a French army he met and defeated them. After the enforced abdication of the fourth Gustavus, and the succession of his uncle Charles XIII., who was childless, it became necessary to adopt an heir to the Crown of Sweden. The choice of the nation fell upon an old foe, from a belief, it is said, that this would propitiate the French Emperor; but although the marriage of relatives had formed a family connexion between Napoleon and his Lieutenant, there really existed no personal cordiality, and the latter had at one time retired from active service on account of unpleasant differences. However that may be, General Bernadotte accepted his destiny, and assumed the rank and duties of Crown Prince of Sweden. Renewed continental disturbances led to increased complications. Napoleon desired that the Swedes should break off all relations with Great Britain; refusal

irritated him, and produced such controversy as caused estrangement from France and a union with the Allied Powers. The command of the army of the Allies in the north of Germany was entrusted to the Prince, and there, admirably supported by the soldiers of his new country, he defeated Oudinot at Grossbeeren, and Marshal Ney at Dennewitz. It was to his energetic influence that Sweden owed the annexation of Norway. That could not compensate for the recent losses of Pomerania and Finland, but it gave the addition of extensive territory, and increased the political authority of the kingdom. Thenceforth the career of the Crown Prince, who soon after ascended the throne, was one of peace. He fostered the cause of education; the agricultural and commercial interests, no longer disturbed by the rival factions of "Hats" and "Caps," were promoted, and important public works actively prosecuted. In selecting Bernadotte as King, the only condition the Swedes made was that he should join the Protestant Church, one readily agreed to, for a soldier of fortune who had lived through the French Revolution was not likely to have many conscientious scruples in so far as religion was concerned. He was an able administrator and an upright ruler.

The nation was proud of the martial fame he had won, and Charles XIV. retained his popularity to the end. Two things he failed to do, or he might have been still more popular. He never acquired a knowledge of the spoken language of his subjects, and objected to conform to the national custom of wearing goloshes !*

II. THE PEOPLE, IN SOME OF THEIR HABITS AND INSTITUTIONS.

The hospitality everywhere extended to strangers, and the ease and cordiality which distinguish social intercourse, soon make one feel at home. The Swedes set great store upon the precept, "given to hospitality," and none of them, I trust, will feel offended by the statement that they attach much importance to the duties of the dinner table. It has been already said that in the ordinary affairs of life they "take things easy." In towns a few hours to

* It is well known that Bernadotte had an unreasonable fear of assassination. His ministers often tried to persuade him in vain that no such plots were in the least to be dreaded, but the King often recurred to the subject. The Swedish minister at Copenhagen, a most intelligent nobleman, told me that one day his Majesty was repeating his fears to a trusted councillor, who scouted the idea, and facetiously added, "Ah ! Sire, if you would but wear goloshes, all would be well."

business, several hours to eating and drinking, a short time in the theatre, and a longer devoted to cards, billiards, and cigars, make up the daily routine.* The only physical exertion which really rouses the energies of their menkind is dancing. In none other are they proficient, nor do they put forward serious claims. There are schools indeed for teaching gymnastics, but attendance there is enforced rather than voluntary, and these exercises are therefore not to be classed with ordinary recreations. In the country there is no "hunting" in our sense, no steeple-chasing, no coursing—for which many districts are well enough adapted; you have no boating or yachting worth the name, although every community has a large share of either salt or fresh water, and numerous families possess extensive lochs of their own. Young fellows have no such games as golf, cricket, leap-frog, or foot-ball, and most of them not only cannot swim, but avoid all contact with water as if an attack of hydrophobia were imminent. Even in winter, with magnificent opportunities, amusements on the ice are far fewer than might be

* I again desire to say that this is to be received as a *general*, not universal rule.

anticipated. As both Gustavus Adolphus and Charles XII. are said to have been fond of violent exercises, they must have appropriated a large share of the natural tastes of their successors. The general disinclination to this sort of exertion is no novel feature, for an old writer says: "It seems as if the severity of the clime should in a manner cramp the faculties of their bodies, and indispose them to any great degree of dexterity and nimbleness!" Card playing, and other games of skill and chance, are universal recreations, and often lead to embarrassments and sorrow. The most popular depends on the capricious throw of the dice, although the Swedes always play like gentlemen, and submit to the decrees of fate with a stolidity a Frenchman would envy. Foul play is denounced with virtuous indignation, and he who attempts it is treated with a sharper's deserts.

> "Spare thou the person, and expose the vice.
> How, sir! not damn the sharper, but the dice."

There is a good deal of billiard playing, but the conditions are less dangerous, and circumstances make general devotion impossible. The theatre did not become a national feature until the days of the unfortunate Gustavus III., a prince who prior to his accession had

benefited by foreign travel, and his subjects were not only indebted to him for encouragement of literature, and the formation of more than one learned society, but for his patronage of the drama, and an opera-house in the capital, which he erected and supported at his own expense.* Before his reign strolling players were the only exponents of the drama. It has since received the brilliant contributions of Jenny Lind and Christine Nilsson, who have greatly stimulated the national taste, so that now operas and theatres bear all the evidences of ever-increasing popularity. There was another Swede who established a great reputation as a *danseuse;* older men will recollect her well, and acknowledge the justice of contemporary tributes, that in agility and gracefulness she surpassed all competitors. It is more than twenty years since Taglioni permanently retired from the stage—where she had

* This amounted to a sum equal to 25,000*l.* yearly. As a "theatre it may be reckoned the second of the kind in Europe, there being only one at Paris which exceeds it, and the superiority of the latter is more in the dancing than in any other. As to the beauty of figure, extent and flexibility of voices, justness of accompaniment, pathetic action, magnificence of dress, and illusion of scenery, the Swedish opera is so little inferior to the French, that strangers who have seen both, have in some respects lately given the preference to the former, especially for the beauty and finishing of the decorations."—*Court of Sweden*, 1790.

long fascinated the European races—to an elegant villa on the lake of Como.

Although the people are averse from violent exercises, as we practise them, they thoroughly enjoy holiday-making, and the numerous feast-days of the Lutheran Church, if not practically dedicated to religious observances, are so much respected that all work is then carefully suspended. Midsummer, or St. John's Eve, has a chief place, and is kept as generally as merry May-day used to be, a generation or two ago, by ourselves. Every country domicile has its maypole, and everybody dances round about it. Steamboats are decorated with flowers and flags, and regale their passengers with bands of music. But the day of days is Christmas. It so far differs from most others, that religion and mirth both share in its observance. "*Julotan*," or Christmas Matins ("otan" meaning very early, about cock-crow), is a marked feature, and every church throughout the land has its peculiar decorations. Each householder makes a contribution in kind, and the churches are thus ablaze with myriads of candles, to represent "types of Christ, the true light shining in the dark land."* The coldest dawn and deepest snow are no

* Miss Howitt's "Twelve Months with Frederica Bremer."

hindrances to attendance, and for a few hours, on one day in the year at all events, a whole nation is devoting itself to God. *Jul,* pronounced as we do "Yule," the corresponding English word, has other duties, as universally fulfilled. In the palace of the King and in the meanest hovel, pleasing evidences are to be found. "Christ-trees," promiscuously adorned, according to the means of the household, with lights and gifts—the custom of reciprocal presents —and some special Christmas meats and dishes, announce its advent. During months preceding, many a rix-dollar has been carefully put aside, to replace the ordinary frugality of other days for the purchase of some peculiar dainty for this one. Friends and relatives hold cordial reunions. Old feuds are cemented; eternal friendships promised. Domestics are treated to the popular *Jul-buller* (Christmas cakes), and unstinted supplies of the inevitable "pounch." No poverty-stricken brother or sister knocks at the door to be sent empty away. Even among the beasts that perish, there are distributed double rations of food; and if the husbandman did not hang out on a pole the "Yule sheaf," which had been carefully appropriated at harvest time, that the little birds might participate in the happiness of the

day, he would feel just alarm lest the wilful "Trolle" should sicken his herds, or else his neighbours would brand him as a bad and hard-hearted man. Sweden, at Christmas time, is another Goshen flowing with milk and honey!

One spot is a blot upon proverbial hospitality. The Island of Gottland has obtained an unenviable reputation for wrecking. It was recently reported that an association of residents there had been formed for the purpose of tendering assistance, after a highly profitable fashion, to ships either wrecked or in danger. "One member affects to be the agent of the shipowner, another for the owner of the cargo, another for the insurers, while another would make himself agent for the salvors." Thus distributing among themselves customary duties, and living on different parts of the island, they form a sort of network round about it, to increase and not to alleviate distress. The sums demanded for salvage are enormous, and an appeal to the Courts is attended with those vexatious delays, already noticed, which become intolerable. Here, according to the report of the Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trade, is what occurred in a special instance. "A vessel got on shore, the weather was fine, and she was taken afloat the same

day by a person who was reported to be a member of the Gottland organization, very little damaged, and lay in harbour for many days. She did not make more water in any one day than could be pumped out in ten minutes, and at the outside a quarter of an hour. After lying in harbour leaking steadily at this rate for some time, one day she suddenly leaked heavily. The ship was examined, and it was found that some of the oakum had been driven out of the seams. This was repaired, and the vessel did not leak much while the oakum remained in it, but it was pulled out again. The captain and mate were subsequently seen to go on board on two occasions. After one of their visits the vessel got deeper in the water, and after the other she went down altogether at her moorings. A survey was held, and the vessel was condemned in due course. She was a new ship, and was sold for about one fifth of the sum for which she was insured. She was bought by a member of the organization, who was a salvor, and the conditions of sale were strongly against any one else buying her. Shortly after the sale was effected, the leak was stopped, and she was afloat in a few hours. Her bottom was repaired by a few hands, and she took in cargo and sailed away. She was rechristened, and is

still running. The agent of the underwriters, who is represented to be a member of the organization, had a representative present at the ship in their behalf, and the underwriters dismissed him on account of this case, and declined to pay the insurance." Combinations leading to such results cannot be too strongly denounced. They represent the naturally warm heart of the Swede corrupted and seduced by an inordinate love of filthy lucre. The organization is illegal, because its objects are collusion, fraud, and extortion. For the honour of "*Gamla Swerje*" (old Sweden), and in the interests of commerce, the Government is bound to bring to speedy dissolution, associations so cruel and disreputable.

For a few years past, emigration has been on a large scale. In each of the years 1867 and 1868 not less than 18,000 people from Sweden and Norway, by far the largest proportion being from Sweden, sailed for the States of America. It is difficult to account for this migratory impulse, and to explain the causes which produce a gregarious movement of the sort. Rapid increase of the population, a change in religious or political institutions, popular discontent, are often reasons with other communities, but in Sweden none of these apply. Should this drain

continue, the labour market must be affected, and all interests suffer. Experience, however, shows that any attempt to check the exodus by withholding facilities, would prove abortive; the inclination is possibly only to be conquered by the more active prosecution of industrial works promoted by the Home Government, which would create less disparity between the earnings of labourers in their own country and America. But instances of emigration have occurred before the present day. It was Sweden which gave to Pennsylvania its first civilized colony; a well-provided body of Swedes and Finns having settled in 1627 on both shores of the Delaware, and made their way nearly to the present site of Philadelphia. To remind them of their common origin they called the settlement "Nya Sjerige" (New Sweden), and were making some progress, when they had to submit, thirty years later, to the flourishing Dutch rule at New Amsterdam, and passed over in 1664 to English jurisdiction, which was established at that time. They belonged therefore in succession to three separate nationalities. Many of their descendants, long regarded as pure bred children of the great republic, perhaps do not even know that the foundation of their pedigree is to be traced to Scandinavian sources.

There is another kind of migration, more limited as regards distance, although not less extensive in its operation. Stockholm,* like London, goes out of town during the autumn months. Few extend their wanderings into foreign parts, but provincial watering places of every description teem with visitors, and country houses—great and small—become the temporary abodes of enterprising citizens. Accommodation is indeed frequently stinted, and an impartial on-looker finds it difficult to associate with this overcrowding of humanity the possibility of comfort, but wives and children would call it tyrannical if means were not at their disposal of doing what every other body does, and so adhering to a custom sanctioned by prescription, which the exigencies of fashion have transformed into a necessity.

Several of those institutions, commercial and social, which denote the advance of civilization, have an early history. In a work by that ambitious financier, John Law, published in 1705,† and in a subsequent communication in 1716, addressed by him to the Regent of France, on the subject of banks, he

* This is true with respect to all larger towns.

† "Money and Trade considered," 1705.

shows that their discovery, as establishments of credit, is due to the Swedes. The Bank of England was founded in 1694; the Bank of Scotland the year following; but forty years previously, an association of Swedish merchants obtained the royal licence to exclusively conduct banking business during a period of thirty years. It was then that the novelty of issuing bank notes (*billets de crédit*) payable to bearer, to circulate without interest from hand to hand as "real money," was introduced, and as the currency heretofore was entirely copper, necessitating a carriage or waggon to transport a moderate sum, the luxury of a bank, with its many facilities to business men, may easily be imagined.

In 1701, the Bank of Sweden commenced its career, and gave a fresh impetus to trade by discounting the bills of customers. Fortune has attended its progress, and the nation been well served. The grandeur of younger neighbours, and the meanness of its architectural decorations, have been compensated for by the pleasant balance-sheets yearly presented. The Bank is placed under the cognizance of the "Riksdag," which controls the issue, and a committee of seven directors, responsible to and selected by Parliament, superintends the management. The

reserve is fixed at a minimum amount, and the public, by statements in the newspapers, are periodically made acquainted with the position of affairs. Branches accommodate the more important provinces.

Paper works in connexion with this bank, for the manufacture of its supplies, are likewise under the supervision of the same directors, the scale of whose remuneration is not magnificent. The chairman receives 150*l.*, and each of his colleagues 75*l.* per annum. The "Riksbank," as this old institution is called, has been especially prosperous in later years. In 1837, realized profits amounted to 80,000*l.*, which in 1867 were nearly doubled.

The history of private banks is comparatively recent. The first was established in 1831. Between twenty and thirty others have since received Government licences, and the right of circulating notes. Their annals have been variously distinguished. Some have assisted to enrich happy shareholders, while by others, committed to the charge of improvident or foolish directors, ruin and desolation have been spread broadcast. But in the main great advantages have followed, and a large cumulative capital, previously unproductive, has been made to yield a fair annual increase. In 1850, the Bank

deposits, inclusive of the State Bank, were under 1,400,000 rix-dollars (*circa* 77,000*l.*), and in 1866 they represented the respectable sum of fifty million rix-dollars, or 2,750,000*l.** The calamitous mismanagement referred to attracted legislative attention, and stringent provisions, requiring the publication of periodical balance-sheets, were imposed upon all banking companies, which have completely satisfied popular misgivings.

A few years ago some of our adventurous countrymen, in concert with Swedish capitalists, projected the plan of a banking company, to be conducted on English principles, and managed by a staff trained to banking in this country. "The English and Swedish Bank" promised to be a grand success. Applications far transcended the number of shares at disposal, and the stock rapidly attained a high premium. Imposing looking premises at Stockholm and Gottenburg housed the Bank's gold and silver, as well as its sagacious managers from England; but the times were not

* I have been much indebted for several items of information to my accomplished friend Count Charles Mörner, who, till his recent succession to the family estates, held a high post in the Statistical Department at Stockholm. Count Mörner has a common descent with the Montgomeries, Earls of Eglintoun, in the Peerage of Scotland.

propitious. The Swedes drew out more largely than they deposited, and native bankers regarded the institution with the green eyes of jealousy. In a period wonderfully brief, this hybrid establishment gave signs of impending collapse, and wisely anticipated a resolution which might have been afterwards forced upon it. "The English and Swedish Bank, limited," proceeded to realize assets, and those sanguine shareholders who once saw great dividends looming, now received back again their capital, diminished by the respectable amount of five-and-twenty per cent.!

The paper currency, which from the scarcity of silver is in universal requisition, must be called a nuisance. Englishmen, accustomed to nothing below a five-pound note, take some time to realize the fact that the sort mostly in use represents no more than thirteenpence of our money. If these notes are of small value, it must be allowed that a great deal of filth is attached to them!

It is well and truthfully said, that "a woman's heart, Christian charity, and scientific enlightenment," united in giving to Sweden the extraordinary advantages its poorer members have derived from Savings Banks. These admirable institutions promise at length to

become popular, but in spite of comparative progress it will be seen that they are susceptible of immense enlargement. So far as they go the results are hopeful, and the poorest labourer may learn in time, that by the periodical saving of trifles and facilities for deposit, some substantial provision may be made for "a rainy day." In the year 1840 the number of the banks was 53; of depositors, 48,445; and the deposits in sterling money amounted in round numbers to 300,000*l.* In 1850, these several figures were 82, 100,194=715,000*l.* In 1860, they were, 146, 200,932=1,600,000*l.*; and in 1865, 186, 244,726=2,000,000*l.* The depositors in 1840 represented 1 in 65 of the population; in 1850 they were 1 in 35; in 1860 1 in 21; and in 1865 1 in 17. The most satisfactory feature is the steady growth of the number of depositors. As the internal prosperity of the country improves, and labour becomes as a consequence more remunerative, deposits will increase apace.

Women, as a rule, are employed as cashiers and clerks in the Savings Banks, whose business is conducted with precision, and of course *agreeably*.*

* The Swedes dearly love figures. Subjects are occasionally painfully statisticized by them, but this is one which must always

Life Assurance has made comparatively little progress, and has not penetrated into the masses. In a few of the larger towns, English companies have established agencies which supply every facility, but Swedes are slow of belief, and patience must be largely drawn upon ere great success is realized.* As a rule, the incomes of men in trade are small, and families prematurely deprived of their head frequently experience severe vicissitudes. A moderate insurance, supported by an annual contribution so inconsiderable that the charge would not be felt, would avert this lamentable condition of things. In a volume published last year, for whose reception the author cannot feel too grateful,† he thus notices the subject:—

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interest. We have old men in England who can remember, if not the introduction, the earliest history of savings banks, and our working classes have long ago appreciated their advantages. They are now influential institutions, representing an enormous amount of capital—upwards of fifty millions sterling. The Post-Office Savings Banks, for which we are indebted to Mr. Gladstone, have likewise been an astonishing success. It appears from a document published last year, that a sum of 5,333,638*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* was received from depositors in the twelve months ending December 31, 1868, and the total amount standing at their credit on that date was 11,666,655*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*

* The very able manager of the Northern Insurance Company of London, Mr. A. P. Fletcher, was among the earliest to extend these advantages to foreign countries.

† "The Old Times and the New." London, 1868.

"Who was to command its (life) continuance? Not a day passes that inexorable fate does not snatch hundreds away before their time, and how many others have faculties impaired through accidents and the ravages of disease? These institutions provide the antidote for one series of the ills to which flesh is heir. They prevent the entrance of poverty into the house of mourning, and save from anticipations of evil the man whose sole fortune is the uncertain pursuit of his vocation. Everybody whose health and habits give him the right of entrance, and who has not secured by other means a provision for his successors, should profit by the opportunity which they place before him."

Among fiscal reforms the Swedes have long ago borrowed our system of penny postage, and appreciate its comfort and convenience.

In labours of philanthropy they keep pace with surrounding civilization. They have founded Bible as well as Missionary Societies, and sought to communicate truths to others that were comforting to themselves. The Swedish Bible Society, established more than fifty years ago, had an early connexion with the Bible Society of London, from which it received large grants at various times, but on the committee refusing

to omit the *Apocrypha* from all copies issued, the London management withheld further subsidies. This point of difference was subsequently adjusted, and there is again harmonious co-operation. The Society announces that it has circulated, from its commencement, above 600,000 copies of the New Testament, and 200,000 of the Bible. It prospers financially, and numbers nearly 400 members. In 1868, 50,000 copies of the Bible alone were printed. More recently, a "Women's Bible Society" has been formed for the promotion of similar objects. The British and Foreign Bible Society has an agency in Stockholm, and been very active, since, including tracts, upwards of a million and a half of its publications have been distributed in the country.

The Swedish Missionary Society is the parent of other Evangelizing associations, of which there are several. Besides aiding the Lappish Mission, it has maintained for a century several stations in the East Indies; and the Evangelical Fatherland's Society, founded so recently as 1861-62, has sent missionaries to the Western States of North America, as well as to the East Coast of Africa.

In connexion with this description of labour, there

is no field in which it might so beneficially be conducted as in Lapland, and it is almost matter of regret that instead of applying resources, which are of course limited, to the support of missions in distant countries with which there is no political connexion, and where few comparatively of their countrymen are to be found, the Swedes should not economize their expenditure and concentrate it nearer home. A lady* to whom I have been much indebted for several translations, has sent me the following, which is striking testimony to the poverty of religious ordinances, and the difficulties which attend them. "Alkaven, in the Lapmark, is situated among the fells, about forty English miles from Qvicjok. To give an idea of what those remote chapels in Lapmark are, I will quote a short description of Alkaven, given by one who had a perfect knowledge of the place and its surroundings. 'It is a church, and perhaps the only one of its kind, built of stone, which sounds fine enough, but there is a drawback, for its walls are full of holes. They consist of rough granite stones piled upon each other like a heap of wooden clogs, and without clay or cement; consequently they had hole

* Mademoiselle Plesner.

upon hole. The roof is of boards, with an opening in it. Into this shed the clergyman and his flock creep when they arrive, for here is their only shelter from rain and tempests. Here they make a fire in the midst of the floor, the smoke making its way through the hole in the roof, otherwise it might find plenty of outlets through the walls. Here they eat, drink, and sleep, the shepherd with his flock, like Polypheme in days of yore in his grotto. Here the service takes place, here the sacraments are administered. Luckily, walls and roof offer plenty of ventilation. Heather and other rubbish from the field furnish fuel, for there is no wood nearer than Qvicjok. Once a year the minister from that place comes hither to keep this midsummer prayer-day for the Laplanders.'"

One society of a kindred kind, in Stockholm, called "The Deaconess' Society," devotes its energies to works of love and mercy. The destitute, the forsaken, and the fallen find from it protection and encouragement. Through its exertions eight and twenty schools have been established in different parts of the provinces, three childrens' homes, and three Magdalen asylums, of which the inmates are under the special superintendence of the benevolent members of committee.

Besides the system of national education pursued in the parish schools, the government have been making great exertions by means of "Elementary Schools," whose aim, as explained under the law of 1859, "is to impart a system of national education surpassing the standard of the national schools, and to lay such rudiments of scientific knowledge as may be further developed at the Universities." These institutions, ably and vigorously conducted, have been found to be highly serviceable to burghal communities, and in place, as used to be the case, of committing the entire control to the clergy, a mixed superintendence is provided. In Stockholm, for example, where they have especially attained eminence, the governing body consists of the archbishop, the governor of the town, the burgomaster, the chief pastor, a member of the Swedish Academy, a member of the Academy of Belles-Lettres, three elected city clergymen, two elected magistrates, and two elected burghers; and another pleasant feature is the comparatively liberal salaries of the teachers, who, according to status and length of service, have incomes varying from 110*l.* to 250*l.* They have indeed a just claim to decent remuneration, when the number of

the prescribed subjects in which they are required to be proficient is considered. "Religion, Swedish language, arithmetic and geometry, history and geography, natural history, pedagogy and method, caligraphy, drawing, music, singing, gymnastics and military exercise, gardening and tree-planting!"

Towards elementary education, as above described, the Budget of 1867 voted a large sum, and from all sources, official, capitalized, voluntary, upwards of 80,000*l.* was available that year for its promotion.

In Sweden, as in England, "Freemasonry" has become a great social institution, into which men of every diversity of occupation, and of conflicting political opinions, have sought admission. Sectarianism and whatever savours of exclusiveness are banished by the fundamental laws of the order. There have been occasions, it is true, where "Lodges" have become the refuge of revolutionary sympathies, and so frustrated the conditions of their foundation, but exceptional features of this kind are inadequate reasons for broadcast attacks on a craft which conspicuously acknowledges the supremacy of "Labour and good-will." The dominant party of the Church of Rome anathematizes the order, an influence, however, from which Swedes and Englishmen are

equally free. In some Roman Catholic countries—Belgium is an example—ultramontanism is incessant in its attacks, and aggravates by this means the hostility which agitates political partisanship. The undoubted antiquity of masonry, as well as world-wide existence, imparts to it an uncommon interest and authority, and the youngest apprentice, if he chooses to inquire and think, may feel some personal pride in belonging to a brotherhood which is enabled to connect itself with the mysteries of Egypt and Chaldea. It was fitting that into this social communion, dedicated emphatically to works of mercy and benevolence, the Prince of Wales, the future ruler of millions of the human family, should seek enrolment, and at a lodge in Sweden, under the genial auspices of the King, his Royal Highness first received the privileges of a "free and accepted mason."

CHAPTER XII.

SWEDES AMONG FOREIGNERS.

ERIC the Crown Prince, son of the illustrious Gustavus Wasa, imbibed a strong passion for becoming the husband of the Queen of England. If one of the proudest and haughtiest of Sovereigns who ever reigned in this country had been disposed on political grounds to favour the suit, the character of her lover must have altogether deterred her. He was more remarkable for his outrages upon, than any allegiance to the decencies of civilized life. To the King, his father, his conduct had been the cause of much sorrow, and the good old man did not hesitate to denounce the vagaries of his profligate descendant. "Ah!" said he, "if this Absalom does not blush to do these things before my face, what will he not venture to do when I am dead." This adorer

of Queen Elizabeth was indeed a very brutal fellow. He had been installed as vice-regent of an extensive principality, whose interests he neglected, and found amusement in the perpetration of acts of malicious cruelty. Fiendish sports in which limbs were lopped off, and eyes knocked out, constituted the programme of these "Northern meetings," and as his father's subjects were thus mutilated, the Viceroy applauded with a madman's laughter. What a dangerous ornament Prince Eric would have been had he become a permanent member of the Court of St. James!

At first his pretensions were introduced by proxy and correspondence, with results which ought to have satisfied any reasonable man that it was vain to prosecute them further. That, however, was not the view of the heir to the throne of Sweden. He prevailed on the old King to intercede in his behalf with the royal representative of the Tudors. Wasa was a man of honour and truth, and if he desired to maintain that character and at the same time promote the cause of his son, his task must have been singularly difficult. Elizabeth loved independence, and could besides find no pretext for plighting her troth to one whose habits and pursuits were both debased and unmanly. She

refused him, it is said, both in French and English, and then wrote a Latin letter to the King in which she entreated that his son would think no more about her. The Queen had determined to reject his addresses, and her decision was as unalterable as a decree of the Medes and Persians. The pig-headed Eric would have no refusal, and as neither his own knowledge of Latin nor that of his father was extensive, he persuaded the latter that they might possibly have misapprehended the full meaning of the royal letter-writer, and that for the double purpose of receiving an answer from Queen Elizabeth's own lips, and giving him the advantage of pressing his suit in person, it would be best he should take ship and present himself to the "Virgin Queen." Everybody, except the principal actor, predicted what the upshot would be, and, as usual, everybody was right. It was an expensive wooing, and if Tegel is to be believed, produced some national grumbling. He says: "What a sum was expended in this expedition to so magnificent a people, and in such a matter where expense is not wont to be spared, may easily be imagined: in fact, the cost amounted to 200,000 dollars."* This

* Tegel, 1559—upwards of 11,000*l.*

was the only visit Eric paid to our shores. In the following year he became King. His inglorious career and melancholy end are familiar historical episodes.

There was a Swedish monarch who acquired the highest reputation abroad, and as a great military commander, has few equals in modern times. Gustavus Adolphus had most qualities which make a man respected and beloved. Gifted with a noble understanding, a warm heart, daring courage, a magnanimity in seasons of triumph, and utterly averse from the cruelty of oppression, he commanded the respect of his political enemies and reigned in the hearts of his own people. His countrymen now treat each spot that is associated with his personal residence as if it were hallowed ground, and his memory with the affection they would bestow on some cherished friend.

This "Snow King," as his Continental rivals at first nicknamed him, inherited a war with Poland and Russia, as well as a long standing feud with Denmark. Wisely settling in the first instance his differences with the Danes, he marched his army against the Russians, whom he drove from Ingria, Kavelia, and Livonia, while his admirals offering

them battle in the Baltic, destroyed or dispersed their fleet. Having thus humbled the Czar, Gustavus concluded a treaty of peace with him, and proceeded to prosecute the war in Poland. The military operations there undertaken exalted his renown, and generally resulted in the triumph of his arms. These successes and the short repose that ensued, permitted Gustavus Adolphus to mature plans which he had long cherished with respect to Germany, and he earnestly resolved that the commanding authority of his political situation should be employed as a grand Protestant counterpoise to the leading Catholic empires. Accordingly, in the summer of 1630, the King set sail with an army of 15,000 men to aid the Protestants of that country in their deadly struggle with the Catholic league, on whose side was marshalled the whole power of the empire. Neither the menaces nor the armaments of Ferdinand II. appalled the Swedish King, who, having already taken Stettin, and secured a variety of important strategic advantages, in 1632 crossed the Danube in the face of Tilly's army, which he signally defeated. Continuing his march to Munich, the whole route is said to have been one triumphal ovation. Meanwhile France, ever prompted by hostile feelings towards the German confederation,

had promised a large subsidy so long as Gustavus maintained an army in the country. This pecuniary support was of incalculable value to a scientific and energetic commander, and historians agree that if Ferdinand had not recalled Wallenstein, his ablest general, it is probable the further advance of the Swedish army would have experienced no serious check. Had that been so, history would not have had to record the stirring events of the blood-stained battle-field of Lützen; the world would have heard that Protestant ascendancy had been established at Vienna, and seen the grandson of Gustaf Ericsson seated upon the throne of Charlemagne.

It is remarkable that a man early trained to military duties, and constantly occupied with affairs of pressing importance, should have found leisure to devote to literary and scientific investigation. There was no European prince who, in mental accomplishments, excelled Gustavus Adolphus. He was well versed in the classics, familiar with ancient history, a proficient in music, and so excellent a linguist that he is said to have spoken and written fluently five languages. The first great patron of learning in his own country, he extended the endowments of the universities as they then existed at Upsala and in

Finland, while his successes in war had an indirect though marked effect on literature, since several libraries captured in Germany were appropriated and sent home by him. No sovereign was ever more ably served in state affairs. The devotion of his chancellor, Oxenstiern, was perfect. The statesmanship of this great minister, combined with the military fame of his chief, attracted many learned foreigners to Sweden, and their labours, liberally rewarded, eminently assisted national progress.

The posthumous fame of another king rests on his foreign achievements. There were few points of resemblance between him and his two greatest predecessors. Charles XII. is said to have been "the greatest hero, Gustavus Adolphus the greatest general, but Wasa the greatest king." Like other distinguished men, he has had violent detractors, and some affect to see in him only a "brilliant madman" or another "Don Quixote," but the world does not share these exaggerated criticisms, and willingly ranks him among the foremost men of the eighteenth century.

As a mere boy he assumed military command, and dictated terms to the King of Denmark from his capital of Copenhagen. He scattered the troops of Germany and Poland before him, and under the walls of Narva, stormed

the Russian camp, dispersing an army four times more numerous than his own. He had a strange passion for war, and was the first man who ever aspired to the title of conqueror without the least desire to extend his dominions. In subduing kingdoms, the greatest satisfaction he found was in giving them away.* Alexander the Great was early selected by him as a model, and hence the sting of the Czar Peter's remark upon receiving from Charles a message in answer to proposals of peace, that he would treat with him at Moscow : " My brother Charles still affects to act Alexander, but I flatter myself he will not find me a Darius!" An illustrious commander, who shared the dietary of his soldiers, banishing all luxuries from his table, and was never absent from the post of danger, might depend upon devotion in the hour of victory as in seasons of reverse, and that dependence was not in vain. When Augustus of Poland was reduced by the fortunes of war, he hoped to allure Charles from his projects through the siren charms of Aurora von Konigsmark, said to be one of the most beautiful women in Europe; but an influence which might have overpowered many great men was

* Votaires " Life of Charles XII."

without weight in this instance. The victorious King declined to receive the Polish Countess, and to womankind in general he was strangely—perhaps irrationally—indifferent. His proverbial self-will and obstinacy were his greatest weaknesses, as they were the occasion of his heaviest misfortunes. To them is to be attributed his enforced detention for five years in Turkey, a large portion of his remarkable life.

It was from no fault of Charles that we had not a visit from him in England. The beginning and end of his career saw him surrounded by hostile alliances. Poland, Russia, and Denmark at the former period; at the latter, the Anti-Swedish league, which comprised Great Britain. The King had succeeded, through his sagacious minister, Baron Görtz, in weakening it, and Russia was to favour the views of Sweden. The programme included the subjection of Norway, and, under favour of the Jacobite rising, a landing in Scotland, to terminate in the dethronement of the first of our Georges! But at the siége of Frederickshall, conducted in weather so rigorous that numerous sentinels perished from the exposure, Charles XII. received the bullet which proved fatal to an ambition that was dangerous to Europe from its restless and insatiable kind.

At his death, Sweden ceased to be counted among the Great Powers. He was not a prudent administrator. "His liberality," says Voltaire, "degenerating into profusion, ruined Sweden; his courage, approximating to rashness, was the cause of his death; his justice sometimes descended to cruelty. . . . . His great qualities, any one of which would have been sufficient to immortalize another prince, proved the misfortunes of his country."

There are two more kings who carried their arms into foreign parts, the one without dishonour, the other so inauspiciously as to lead to the serious dismemberment of the empire.

Gustavus III. had many qualifications which fitted him for being a great king, but his imperious temper and love of despotism weakened his popularity and abridged his reign. He had destroyed oligarchies, and the aristocracy regarded with disfavour a diminution of their influence. He refused any enlargement of constitutional principles, and a "fierce" democracy clamoured for liberty. The country, too, needed repose. The campaigns of Charles XII. had increased its martial renown, but sadly impoverished it, and if the King had shown even a moderate inclination to defer to public opinion,

and sought to foster the internal resources of the nation, his own authority would have rapidly revived and contentment been restored. Neither course suited his inclination; he knew that his popularity had long been waning, and resolved that war was the natural stimulant of loyalty. At that time the northern frontier of Russia lay exposed in consequence of hostilities with the Turks, and the Swedish general in Finland was directed to march against St. Petersburg. A vigorous campaign, extending to three years, conducted by the King in person, produced a peace favourable to his interests; but this unprovoked attack upon Muscovite territory was a step not to be forgotten by Russia, and the ultimate loss of Finland may not unreasonably be traced to it.

A war policy did not remove the influence of hostile parties or the growth of discontent, and the assassination of Gustavus forms a black spot in the nation's annals. In his hours of leisure, when the pleasures of the chase and the table did not occupy him, the pursuits of art and science were favourite avocations. Before setting out for the Russian war he deposited two boxes in the library of Upsala, with directions that they should remain unopened until

fifty years after his death. The condition was respected, and in 1842 the fastenings were ceremoniously removed. The contents comprised sundry letters, with historical and literary essays sufficiently meritorious to have gained for their author another medal from "The Royal Swedish Academy."*

Gustavus IV. was the cause of the abrupt termination to the Wasa rule. His unwise policy and vain ambition led to the loss, first of Pomerania, and then of Finland. Charles XII. was his *beau idéal*, of whom he affected to be a close imitator, but unless in hereditary courage, the claims to resemblance were ridiculous. The act of his public life which entitles him to the thanks of civilization, was the bold and indignant protest he delivered, all but alone among the Powers of Europe, to the French Emperor, against the barbarous death of the Duke d'Enghien. That, and his speeches in the German diet, as Duke of Pomerania, were causes of immense irritation to Napoleon, who contemptuously spoke of him as the heir of Charles XII., "only in jack-boots and audacity of tongue!"

Gustavus could boast of no military successes like

* See "Account of Swedish Academies."

his ancestors. He took the field in Germany with a powerful army against 30,000 French troops, and was signally defeated. It adds another to the many strange episodes of history, that the conqueror that day was Bernadotte, and the vanquished his future subjects.

Alexander and Napoleon had now coalesced, and a Russian army was overrunning Finland. Great Britain, still a friendly ally, had promised Sweden a subsidy of 1,200,000*l.* as well as a contingent of 10,000 men commanded by Sir John Moore. But for his unparalleled folly in quarrelling, on some capricious pretext, with the British commander, who returned to England in disgust, Gustavus might have been spared the humiliation of losing a valuable appendage of the Crown. His conduct became every day more remarkable for dangerous eccentricities, and the nation at last forced him to abdicate.

His uncle was now King, and Bernadotte Crown Prince. The dethroned sovereign roamed about the world. He had divorced himself from an amiable consort, and was alone. In the canton of Basel he chiefly resided, under the name of "Colonel Gustafson," the gallant colonel's chief glory being concentrated in the mystical religious badge of the Knights

of Jerusalem which he habitually wore—and a simulated poverty. In 1810 he paid a visit to England, to which no warm reception was accorded ; but Hampton Court being then the asylum of several French refugees, the ex-king found there congenial companionship.

Weak and half lunatic, he ceased, long before his death, to have any personal importance, and was hardly remembered. He was the last in descent, although not the last king, of the dynasty of Wasa. Between him and its illustrious founder there was the very antithesis of everything that constitutes identity.

Nearly two hundred years after the unhappy Eric had returned a discomfited suitor for the hand of our haughty Queen Elizabeth, we had a visit from another Swede—accounted the most famous mystic of the eighteenth century—who died in England. The son of a Bishop, and himself destined for the church, Swedenborg, by the mathematical and mechanical distinction he gained at the university, attracted the notice of Charles XII., who made him an assessor of mines, then an office of consideration as well as emolument. Subsequently, he was invited to accept, but declined, the chair of mathematics in Upsala, and later in life the Queen Olrica conferred on him a patent of

nobility as Baron. Until past fifty, he had not entered on his singular career of spiritualism, connected with which posterity have made his acquaintance, and was only locally known as a man of great capacity and extensive acquirements. A contemporary prime minister has said that "he was without contradiction the most learned man in my country." Soon after coming to London he published his "Arcana Cælestia," which excited much attention from its startling announcements. He had free access, he informed, to heaven and hell, and the spiritual world; where he not only had opportunities of conversing with deceased acquaintances, but with distinguished men of former periods. Self-love, according to him, was a dangerous property, for, if it was largely developed, its possessor was certain to be consigned to one of the *three* hells, which he designated. His "sightseeing" was generally supposed to be defective, for whereas King David and the Apostle of the Gentiles were still suffering the penalty of their sins, Louis Quatorze and George II. held exalted rank among the angels of light! The grand distinctive principle of Swedenborgian theology is the doctrine of Life. "God, it is maintained, alone lives—creation is dead—man is dead, and their apparent life is the

Divine presence. It appears as if he were different in one man and in another; but this is a fallacy. The difference is in the recipients. By one He is not received in the same degree as in another. A man more adequately represents God than a tree. This is the only difference: the life of devils is God's presence perverted in disorderly forms. All things, and each of them, to the very uttermost, exist and subsist instantly from God. If the connexion of anything with Him were broken for a moment, it would instantly vanish, for existence is perpetual subsistence, and preservation perpetual creation."* One portion of Swedenborg's belief was a reversal of the leading doctrine of Socinianism, for he saw God in the Saviour, and regarded Him as the sole object of worship. From a variety of circumstances there is not a doubt that he really believed whatever he wrote and spoke on such mysterious subjects, but it is equally certain that his intellect had become perverted and that these hallucinations were the offspring of insanity. The Swedenborgians have become a distinct sect. Great Britain contributes from three to four thousand members, of whom

* "Arcana Cælestia;" also "Chambers' Encyclopædia."

Lancashire represents the largest number. In America they are in greater force, but the founder's countrymen have the smallest sympathy with his opinions. They are not probably destined to rise from their present obscurity among Dissenters, and are indeed little considered, except from their connexion with the mental eccentricities of a very remarkable man.

The enormous extension of commerce during the present century, and the influx of foreigners of all nations into the great Modern Babylon, its centre, have naturally enlarged our acquaintance with the Swedes, whose mercantile integrity is cheerfully acknowledged. The diplomatic and consular servants of their government have been men of intelligence and honour, highly esteemed in their own circles, but without general acquaintance. It has been different with two of their fair countrywomen, who, by the charm of their artistic gifts and the purity of their "moral page," have won all hearts.

Jenny Lind and Christine Nilsson have both risen from the ranks to positions which the mere accident of high birth could not have commanded. Every obstacle was removed by the magic of their power; the *une voix phénomenale*, as the French call it, proved

irresistible. Until their day, all the celebrated *cantatrici* we had been glad to welcome, had come from the warm South, and now two peasant girls belonging to the far North were each in succession to make captive. the most brilliant and fastidious audiences in the world.

At the age of sixteen, Jenny Lind found herself the reigning and popular *prima donna* in the Theatre at Stockholm. Most girls would have lacked the courage to relinquish a post which gained for them consideration and celebrity in their native capital, but she, with a rare instinct that has served her well, feeling that her voice needed more control, wisely determined to seek the aid of Garcia, in Paris, then the first singing master in Europe. Strange to say, he does not appear to have adequately appreciated the astonishing ability of his pupil, who was indebted to the invitation of Meyerbeer to sing at the Opera of Berlin, the scene of her first continental triumph. It was there Mademoiselle Lind made the acquaintance of Mendelssohn, who pronounced her to be "the most highly gifted being of the age." Making allowance for the enthusiastic sympathy of a great master, more exaggerated compliments have been less worthily bestowed.

More than twenty years have passed away since Jenny Lind took London by storm. The "Swedish Nightingale" received one continuous ovation, and had modesty permitted, she might right truthfully have appropriated the proverbial words of Julius Cæsar, "Veni, Vidi, Vici!" She had been long expected, and her first appearance, as *Alice* in the opera of *Robert le Diable*, excited a sensation that was without a parallel. On her temporary return to Stockholm, and the announcement of her reappearance in the Opera, tickets for admission were sold by auction at fabulous prices.

Time only carried for her fresh triumphs on its wings. Mademoiselle Lind came back to us in 1849, and royalty was assiduous in its patronage. The London season was followed by a successful tour in the provinces, and her popularity, aided by the liberality of her charities, everywhere increased. Mr. Barnum—speculative and prescient—concluded an arrangement by which she undertook to perform at concerts in America, Canada, Mexico, and the West Indies. It is said that the lady's share represented the handsome amount of 300,000 dollars, and Mr. Barnum was amply repaid for his labour and his toil.

Jenny Lind's powers were so unassailable, and the manner in which she wore her honours was so graceful and gentle, that jealousy and satire found no stable footing. While riches were daily growing, she turned no deaf ear to the circumstances of her earlier home and the claims of her own people. Feeling that the means of education were often necessarily difficult, and that without it all hopes of advancement must be blighted, she has assisted by princely gifts the number and endowments of Swedish schools, while we have thanks not less grateful to tender for the magnificence with which she has supported many of our public charities, and relieved a thousand cases of individual distress. The active labours of a trying profession and a brilliant career have been ended, but "Jenny Lind" is not forgotten. All England will fervently join in one wish, that in her English home every happiness and honour may attend her to a green old age.

Musical critics—whose supply seems in no danger of diminution—must decide the vexed and unprofitable question as to the relative merits of Madame Goldschmidt and Mademoiselle Nilsson. The claim of either to the highest rank of excellence is not disputed.

Christine Nilsson came among us just twenty

years after her distinguished countrywoman's first appearance. *Her* fame too had served as a valuable pioneer. In the autumn of 1864 she made her *début* at the *Lyrique* in Paris, in *Violetta*, a French translation of *La Traviata*. The audience and the press were in delightful harmony, and equally lavish of their praise. The *Moniteur Universel* thus described the new artist:—"She has transitions which resemble the murmurs of the Infinite. At times her songs fall from patrician lips like phrases lowly uttered by a duchess of the olden time. Her sigh is a melody—her breath a caress!"

It is not the habit of English journalists to express themselves in such fervid speech, but when Mdlle. Nilsson, in June 1867, had appeared at Her Majesty's Theatre before a London audience for the first time, commendations were scarcely less enthusiastic. Even the *Saturday Review* for once capitulated, and in Schumann's observation on Schubert, concentrated its admiration of her performance—"One glance, and the world shone fresh again!"

Twice since then, we have warmly welcomed her return. Each time evokes increased admiration, and makes us feel it were impossible that repetition could ever weary. The zenith of the fame of Christine

Nilsson cannot be regarded as having been reached. Tens of thousands hope to listen to that "sweet and facile voice" which, giving her first rank as a lyric artist, makes her shine equally in opera and oratorio. At her approach, the portals of Vienna, St. Petersburg, Berlin, Florence, Paris, will be thrown open to receive her. Our fellow-subjects in Canada anxiously wait for the opportunity. Our prosperous cousins on the great continent of America are eager to cast their "almighty dollars" at her feet. The provinces of England, Scotland, and Ireland all put in pressing claims. Ere a quarter of a century shall have been spanned since the little child born of humble parents drew her first breath in the wilds of Smoland, she will have accumulated a fortune as large as that of rich merchants in this busy London of ours, who have spent threescore years in the effort.* Nobody regards with grudging eyes the triumphs she has won. Who "bears her faculties so meek?" Wealth in the hands of one whose antecedents are all good and kind is

* Mademoiselle Nilsson received for her engagement in London of two months, last autumn, 8000*l.*, all her expenses being paid; but these terms are small in comparison with those promised to Madame Adelina Patti, who for a hundred concerts in America is to have 40,000*l.* Fabulous such tariffs would have been considered by the greatest singers of the past generation.

sure to be distributed without selfishness; and if example were needed, where could she so naturally turn as to the life of her sister "Nightingale" Sweden sent us—the first of many more we hope—whose powers were not less brilliant, whose success was not less just?

CHAPTER XIV.

HOME AGAIN.

IN the early part of October the weather gave such foreboding indications that, in spite of the most hospitable protestations, I determined, on prudential grounds, to retrace my steps. Many of the birds of passage had already taken their departure, and others, anticipating evil, were making visible preparation. In this resolve of mine I cordially appropriated the words of their "Lament"—

> "The Scandian shore
> We leave in despair,
> Our days glided o'er
> So blissfully there!"

I bid my adieu indeed with unaffected regret, and as I shook my kind friends by the hand, and embraced their children, one by one, under solemn promises

of return, I am not ashamed to own to that nervous feeling of sensibility which utterly ignores the hollowness of simulated expressions. I cannot tell if the promise is to be realized, but I do know that I shall often be with all of them in the spirit.

The "posting" portion of my journey had again to be performed, and its renewed acquaintance brought fresh sorrow. Long before, I had registered a vow that no earthly power should tempt me to re-encounter the villanies of the North Sea, and so by means of a short canal passage I reached the line of railway that connects Gottenburg with Stockholm. To quit Sweden without seeing the capital of which Northmen are justly proud, would have been unpardonable—the City of the Seven Islands, the Venice of the North.* An abler pen has been employed to describe those sights with which travellers in European cities ought to be familiar, and it would be presumptuous as well as ungrateful to make a raid on ground belonging to the "Queen of

* In a recent article in *Macmillan's Magazine* on "Thorwaldsen and his Works," *Copenhagen* is called the "*Venice* of the North." Between these two cities there is no resemblance whatever. If the writer had ever *seen* Venice, he would have avoided the mistake.

the Mälar," which "Murray" has so carefully pre-occupied. The English residents are neither numerous nor powerful, and belief in our national store of wealth is accepted on trust, rather than impressed by individual examples. The only enduring monument of their corporate existence is an English church, recently erected, of elegant architectural design, for which that community was indebted to the united energy and influence of a very estimable man and most able public servant.* Handsome memorial windows have been placed in it—alas! how soon—to two attached friends, full of hope and promise, who died suddenly within a few weeks of each other.† Although the excellent clergyman‡ who conducts the services is likewise chaplain to the embassy, his duties must not be called onerous, and from no fault of his the flock gives few indications of increase. Accompanied by a *valet de place,* who was a compatriot, and had spent, heaven knows how many years at his present post—the most

* Thomas Carew Hunt, Esq., late H.B.M. Consul at Stockholm, now at Bordeaux.

† Margaret, only daughter of Mr. Hunt. Ida Blaikie, wife of Henry Fawcus, Esq., of Seaton-Carew.

‡ The Rev. Robert Blakey, M.A.

voluble fellow I ever encountered, with information on all subjects consistently incorrect—I made a careful *reconnaissance* of the city. A more superficial examination would have sufficed to leave deep impressions of the wonderful energy as well as sagacity of its earlier rulers, produced by numerous works that are also enduring monuments to the taste and skill of the men who designed and elaborated them. Modern buildings, and splendid quays, and docks, bear witness that in the march of art and science our Scandinavian allies are no laggards.*

Did these and other material facts not remain, a visit to this capital, and to those parts of the peninsula it represents, would supply topics of interest and recall stirring associations linked with the past. The traveller or tourist—whichever term he prefers—will find the *séjour* pleasant. A railway system, diminishing the expense and fatigue of locomotion, has lent increased facilities for becoming acquainted with many localities of historical renown. The nation's martial glory has ceased to be con-

* All visitors should stay at the Hotel Rydberg—comfortable and moderate quarters, and conducted by one of the most polite Frenchmen in the world.

sidered, and its policy no longer influences the Cabinets of the leading Powers of Europe, but it was great when the monarchies of the present period were still in fragmentary condition, and the elements of power are not wanting now. Great natural resources, a large territory, a long seaboard, a brave, hardy, and industrious population, all belong to Sweden. A constitutional and parental government, beneficent institutions fostering the spread of knowledge, industrial occupations, easily stimulated by the aid of scientific and mechanical invention, an enlargement of general commerce which never fails to attend the progress of peace firmly established, must undoubtedly assist to secure for it a prosperous future.

Quitting Stockholm, I reached the same evening the quaint old town of Malmo, in whose castle Bothwell spent five years of his imprisoned life, and next morning crossed the narrow arm of the sea which divides the homes of two nations. It was cheering to receive the cordial welcome of honest Danes. In Copenhagen I treated myself to a curious examination of the early home of our ever-popular Princess of Wales, and luxuriated among the many treasures of art which the genius of Thorwaldsen

has bequeathed to his country. A few hours brought me to the historic city of Lubeck—the cradle of proud resolves in the cause of civil and religious liberty—thence by Hanover, Cologne, Aix-la-Chapelle, Verviers, Liège, Brussels, and Calais, I felt almost sad as I sighted the white cliffs of Dover.

THE END.

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